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Journal of One-Name Studies

The quarterly
publication of the

**Guild of
One-Name
Studies**

<https://one-name.org>

Volume 15 Issue 6 • April-June 2025



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Guild of One-Name Studies CIO. Registered Charity No. 1197944

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Seventeenth Century Buckfastleigh Michelmores

Bridging the Ditch

by Michael Mitchelmore (4462)

I have been trying for almost 20 years to break through my brick wall, making sense of a large collection of 17th century Michelmores records from in and around the parish of Buckfastleigh on the southern edge of Dartmoor. Actually, it was more like a wide ditch with a small island in the middle. On one side of the ditch, 14 Michelmores baptisms, 7 marriages and 10 burials in 1601-41; on the other, 22 baptisms, 13 marriages and 21 burials in 1672-1700; and on the island, a handful of records in 1653-57. Surely all these events must be connected but, with nearly 30 years of missing records, doing so seemed an impossible task.

The problem of linking these records was made even more difficult by the fact that the Michelmores men shared a very small number of forenames. There were only eight different names: over a quarter were called Philip and another half were either John, William or Robert. Since most of the baptism records state only the name of the father, there are multiple possibilities for the father of almost every son.

However, I recently devised a method that successfully bridged the 1642-71 ditch. It is rather complicated, and I can only summarise it here in the hope that another member might find it helpful. The strategy, which inevitably focussed on the male records, involved several stages.



Figure 1. Michelmores parishes near Buckfastleigh.

Stage 1. Age Analysis

Data on the 75 male Michelmores¹ born in Devon in the period 1600-1750 who had been reliably linked to their wives and children were analysed to determine the distribution of age at first marriage and the number of years between marriage and the birth of any children. The middle 90% of each distribution was then determined.

It was found that 90% of men married between the ages of 19 and 35 and that 90% of their children were born within 16 years of the marriage. It was also found that generations were about 35 years long. I assumed that the Michelmores of Buckfastleigh would follow the same pattern.

Stage 2. Reconstruction of missing events

Next, for each of the eight forenames, the available data on Buckfastleigh area male baptisms and marriages were listed, labelled and divided into generations, and those who died as infants eliminated. For example, these were the records for Philip Michelmores, where PM denotes a Philip marriage, PB a Philip baptism and bold font denotes a 'Philip, son of Philip' record:

Gen 1	Gen 2		Gen 3		Gen 4
Mar Up to 1630	Bap 1600-35	Mar 1630-65	Bap 1636-71	Mar 1665-95	Bap 1672-1700
PM01	PB02	-	PB03 PB04	PM02 PM03 PM04 PM05	PB05 PB06 PB09 PB10 PB12 PB13

Several recorded baptisms were omitted (PB01, PB08 and PB11) because they apparently died as infants and PB07 because the record turned out to be a mistranscription.²

Records that had sunk into the ditch could then be inferred by comparing the numbers of baptisms and marriages. In the case of Philip, we inferred two missing baptisms:

1. In Generation 3, there are more Philip marriage records than baptisms. This is a problem, for although not every man married, at the time very few men married more than once. It seemed safer to assume that there were two missing Philip baptism records in Generation 3. I labelled these hypothetical baptisms PBH1 and PBH2.
2. In Generation 4, the number of 'Phillip, son of Philip' baptisms was less than the number of marriages in the previous generation. However, this is not a problem: it suggests only that one of PM02-PM05 did not have a son called Philip who survived to adulthood. If there had been more 'Philip, son of Philip' baptisms in one generation than the number of Philip marriages in the previous one, then that would have pointed to a missing marriage record.

In a similar manner, missing baptism and marriage records were inferred for each of the other seven forenames.

Stage 3. Linking births and marriages

The hypothetical missing records were next assigned a date range. For example, PBH1 probably took place at most 35 years before PM02 (which took place in 1672) and at least 19 years before PM04 (1690). It would therefore have taken place at any time between 1637 and 1671. Assuming it came from the ditch, PBH1 probably took place in 1642-52 or 1658-71 (shortened to 1642-71 to save space).

It was now possible to construct a map for each of the eight forenames, using the dates of the various baptisms and marriages (both recorded and hypothetical) to indicate the likely links between them. For example, Figure 2 shows the first version of the Philip map.

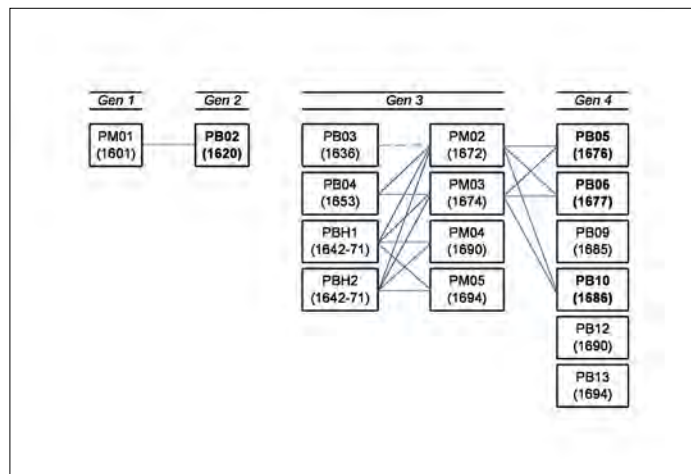


Figure 2. First version of likely Philip linkages.

The map shows that, in Generation 3, PB03 was probably too old to have married PM02 and most unlikely to have married PM03 or PM04. Similarly, PB04 might have married PM02 or PM03 but was probably too old to have married PM04 or PM05. On the other hand, both PBH1 and PBH2 might have married any of PM02-PM05, depending on when they were born.

In the next generation, the three sons of Philip (PB05, PB06 and PB10) might have been the sons of PM02 or PM03 but not PM04 or PM05, who were married well after they were born. But this analysis leaves only two Philip marriages in Generation 3 to account for three 'Philip, son of Philip' baptisms in the next generation (unless one of them died in infancy, for which there was no evidence). To make up the numbers, a hypothetical marriage PMH1 was added in Generation 3 and its likely date calculated as 1660-1671.

The revised Philip map is shown in Figure 3. PB03 now has a more probable marriage, when he would have been between 24 and 35 years old.

In the following stages, many similar modifications to the hypothetical baptisms and marriages, their date ranges and the links between them were made whenever analysis showed they were needed to explain the data. Whenever there was a choice, Occam's Razor was applied and the solution with the fewest possible missing records was adopted.

After all eight maps were completed, they were combined into a one giant map. It fills 55 rows and 20 columns of an Excel spreadsheet, so it is impossible to illustrate it here. It looks more like a cobweb than a descent chart, but it was

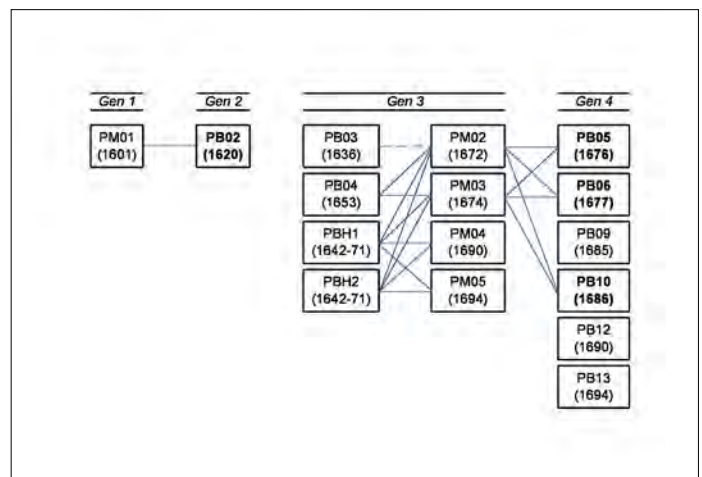


Figure 3. Second version of likely Philip linkages.

the best that could be done using only the available parish registers. To untangle the families, it was necessary to draw on any other information that could be found. Fortunately, there were several sources.

Stage 4. The 1698 Census

The 1698 Census of Buckfastleigh³ documented six Michelmore households and three individuals. Analysis of these data made it possible to eliminate several links, increase the accuracy of some estimated dates, and identify some further missing records. For example, it was found that one of the 'Philip, son of Philip' baptisms had been omitted because that he appeared to have died in infancy (PB08) was still alive in 1698. As a result, the Philip links had to be substantially revised.

Stage 5. A 1654 will

Records exist of wills made by Peter Michelmore⁴ in 1653 and widow Anne Michelmore⁵ in 1654. Only the text of Anne's will has survived, but both burials are recorded and Anne was stated to be the 'wife of Peter'. It is inconceivable that Peter and Anne were not man and wife.

The forename Peter was quite rare, so it was relatively easy to link the available records. The simplest conclusion seemed to be that Peter had married in 1630-41, that his wife had probably died soon after 1641, that he had then married Anne in 1642, and that Anne had given birth to two sons and a daughter in 1643-1646. One of these sons was eventually identified as PBH1.

Stage 6. A 1707 legal case

A legal action taken in 1707⁶ by one John Michelmore against a Samuel Michelmore concerning the estate of one Philip Michelmore also provided much valuable information. The text shows that the Philip in question married twice and died in 1694, appointing his son John as his executor with his brother Samuel as trustee until John came of age.

It was possible to identify the three Michelmores, deducing for example that PBH2 was linked to both PM03 and PM04 and that PM03 was linked to PB10. Several of the possible links in Figure 3 could then be deleted.

Stage 7. Social status

Society in 17th century rural Devon was rigidly stratified into five social classes: aristocrats; gentlemen, who lived from

investments or renting out parts of their estates; yeomen, who worked a large estate; husbandmen, who worked rented land; and agricultural labourers. Social status was basically hereditary; for example, the eldest son usually inherited his father's estate and therefore his status. Buckfastleigh Michelmores of the time came from all four levels below aristocrat.

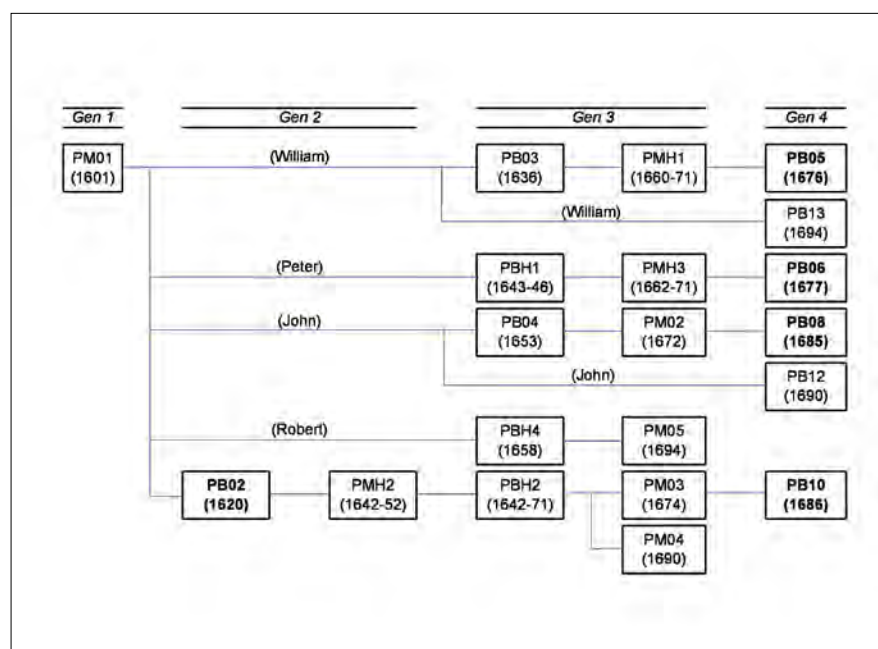
Several documents of the period were used to assess social status. The most valuable were three lists of landowners: the 1715 Militia tax, the 1723 Oath of Allegiance to George I, and the 1711-1799 Devon Freeholders Books. From these documents, it was possible to identify the high social status Michelmores. Gentlemen were also identifiable from annotations such as 'Mr' or 'gent' in the parish records.

Several ambiguous links could then be resolved by preferring those where the father and his son most nearly shared the same social status. For example, social status records identify PB05 as a gentleman, so his father must have been a gentleman or at least a yeoman. As shown in Figure 3, PB05 was initially judged to be the son of PMH1, PM02 or PM03. Analysis of the legal case referred to above eliminated PM03; now we could eliminate PM02, who is not mentioned as a landholder anywhere. So PB05 was most likely the son of PMH1.

As another example, the position of constable (essentially the chief of police for the parish) was of particularly high status. Although constables were theoretically re-elected each year, the position had in practice become hereditary. One William Michelmores is named as the constable in 1647 and another William in 1715, both eldest sons. The missing link could now be identified as PB03, the first William's eldest son, who (via PMH1) was also PB05's father.

Stage 8. Final considerations

Several further links could be eliminated after looking closely at some other data: the ages of Michelmores spouses, wherever they could be identified; the few baptism records where the mother was stated; burial dates, wherever these could be reliably assigned; and records of female children. The final version of the Philip map, with a few other names added for completeness, is shown in Figure 4.



Unfortunately, a few ambiguous links could not be resolved and there were still several individual records (mostly female baptisms and marriages) that could not be fitted in anywhere.

Conclusion

During the above analysis, I several times arrived at a contradiction and had to back-track to find the assumption that had caused a contradiction. Nevertheless, I was eventually able to bridge the ditch, knock down the wall, and confidently assign most 17th century Buckfastleigh Michelmores to their proper place.

Because the reconstruction was based on probabilities, it is likely that there will be some errors. Even so, the results substantially extend our understanding of Michelmores genealogy by showing that most of the 17th century Buckfastleigh Michelmores were probably descended from the Philip and Judith who married in 1601 (PM01). In terms of the Mitchelmores One-Name Study, the results show that—apart from those who deliberately or accidentally changed the spelling of their surname—all Michelmores are descended from that one couple.⁸ Y-DNA results had long ago suggested that this would be the case. But finding the actual common ancestor was, for me, more than enough to make up for all the time and head-scratching needed to knock down this wall.

Notes and References

1. For a brief history of the various M*ch*mores, see mitchelmores.one-name.net/history/joons1.pdf.
2. To save space, I use each code to refer either to the event or the Philip involved in it.
3. A transcript is available at www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/Buckfastleigh/Buckfastleigh1698.
4. PCC Admons. Vol. 1 p. II, 84, National Archives.
5. National Archives PROB 11-233-205.
6. National Archives C 6/354/27.
7. Transcriptions of all these documents are available at foda.org.uk.
8. For details, see mitchelmores.one-name.net/families/trees/tree16.htm.

Michael is studying the surname Mitchelmores with the variants Michelmores, Mitchamores, Mitchmores, Muchamores, Muchemores, Muchmores, and Mutchmores and he can be contacted at: michael.mitchelmores@one-name.org.

Michael's members' website project can be found at mitchelmores.one-name.net.



Figure 4. Final version of likely Philip linkages.

The Marriage of DNA and a slim paper trail can lead to your Family

by Pat Hatfield and Ron Yates (9019)

In early 2024 our two authors found one another and decided to collaborate based on their intersecting interests, body of work, and other skills. They each had a substantial body of work assembled over many years; one had skill strengths in research and the other in genetic genealogy. Regardless of their respective work they had slim paper trails. In one case, excellent documentation but a nagging sense of closure as to relationships. The other case was extensive but was halted at a 'brick wall.'

The authors agreed to conduct a joint dual approach study using traditional methods of research and marrying those efforts with genetic genealogy. The aims of the collaboration were to find confirmation of earlier research and relationships and determine a method to identify the best candidates for the parentage of the ancestor stuck at the 'brick wall.'

We can now confirm that we share a common ancestor grandparent set, Samuel Yates (1703-1773) and Johnanna Gould (1708-1778). They were both born in Maryland but relocated to Loudoun County, Virginia where they both died. We successfully have documentation and DNA support for these conclusions. This is our report on how we carried out this work such that you could replicate the effort.

Our Gateway Ancestor from England

The family of George Yeates and Mary Wells Stockett Yeates is documented in the highly respected work of Harry Wright Newman.¹ His son George Yeates and wife Rachel Warfield are additionally documented in the work of J.D. Warfield.²

This study carries forward one of the lesser-known descendants of George Yeates and Rachel Warfield, Samuel Yeates. Samuel was the second son of the above family and was likely baptized at St. Anne's Church in Baltimore.³ Documents on the life of Samuel are scant, but a few clues exist. Samuel was the executor of his brother Joshua's will in 1751.⁴

About this time, Samuel Yeates had some misfortune to befall him. On 28 September 1758, a notice appeared in Annapolis Maryland Gazette: Samuel Yeates gave notice that *'he is a long-time in prison for debt and doesn't have the wherewith to satisfy his creditors.'* He further stated that he intended to apply to the Maryland General Assembly for an Act of Relief.⁵

Samuel sold his property in Maryland by 1758 and moved to Loudoun County, Virginia. His will was written 1 April 1773 and proven 18 June 1778. In the will he names wife Johanna, children, Rachael Money, Joshua Yates, George Yates, Mary Money, Frances Simmonds, Benjamin Yates, and grandson James Porter.

Yeates, Samuel 4 April 1773. 18 June 1778. Wife Johannah Yeates to have one-half of all estate and to dispose of same

as she thinks best. Sons: Joshua, George and Benjamin Yeates. Daughters: Rachel Money, Mary Money and Frances Simmonds. Exrs: wife and son Benjamin. Wit: Nicholas Money, John Moss, John Laid. (p.218).⁶

Thus, it is clear that the family fell on hard times. Samuel left the entirety of his estate to his wife and youngest son, Benjamin. His sons, Joshua and George, were left only five shillings while daughter Rachel Money was given two ewes and lambs. Daughter Mary Money was given one ewe, and daughter, Frances Simmonds, was also given five shillings. His grandson, James Porter, was left one ewe and a lamb, and one son, was left a shoat and twenty shillings.

One can suppose that the older sons may have been at odds with their father over the impending war or a family dispute. The 1770 tax list for Loudoun County shows Joshua and George being taxed in the same household. The tax for the two is 10 scalps, a particular tax that required men to help rid the county of vermin that cause destruction of property.⁷

According to the terms of the Proclamation Act of 1763 (The Royal Proclamation of 1763, also known as the Proclamation Line of 1763, was a decree issued by King George III on 7 October 1763), men who enlisted for military service were entitled to a certain number of acres of land based on their ranks. Joshua Yates' name appears on a militia list of Anthony Bledsoe.⁸ Bledsoe's men were recruited from Loudoun and Culpepper counties in Virginia.

Brother George Yates first appears in Southwest Virginia in 1766 when William Herbert settled the estate of Robert Andrews. George Yates is paid with four other men to assist in the settlement of the Andrews estate.⁹ In November the following year, court records show a suit by Herbert against Anthony Bledsoe for debt against the Robert Andrews estate.¹⁰ George Yates appears on a Tithables List of William Herbert for 1770-1771 exact date taken unclear.¹¹ It would seem that both brothers were seeking their fortunes in the western movement into Southwest Virginia.

George and Joshua Yeats maintained a family in Loudoun possibly until the frontier was considered relatively safe from the known violence presented to those first on the frontier. Both men are sporadically on the tax list of Loudoun. Nevertheless, George signed a lease in 1776 for 150 acres of land from Ephraim Hubbard; Elizabeth Yates is named on the Hubbard lease as the wife of George.¹² Joshua Yeats also leased land in Loudoun from Ann Edmonds, who later married Ephraim Hubbard.¹³ For unknown reasons, both brothers left Loudoun for the cheaper lands in Virginia and Kentucky. By December of 1782, George had purchased five tracts of land (553 acres) in Montgomery County, Va.¹⁴ Elizabeth Yates is alone and paid the tax in Loudoun.¹⁵ Joshua Yeates is in Loudoun paying his tax himself. By 1786 Joshua Yates has left Loudoun for Montgomery County, Kentucky.¹⁶

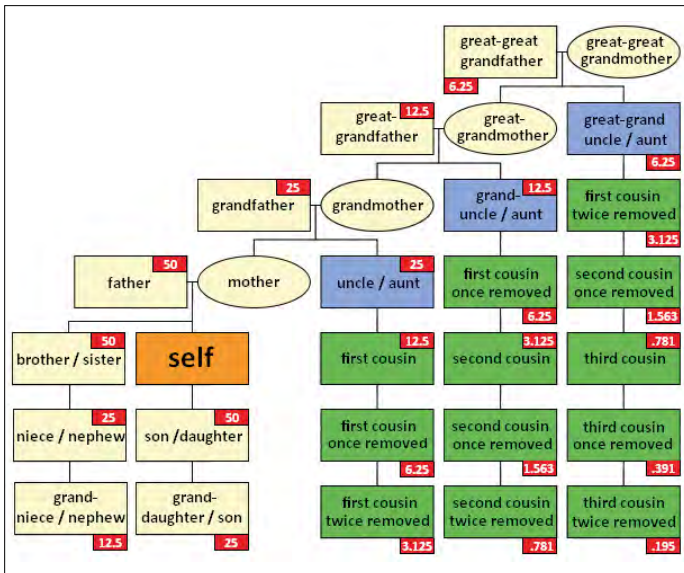
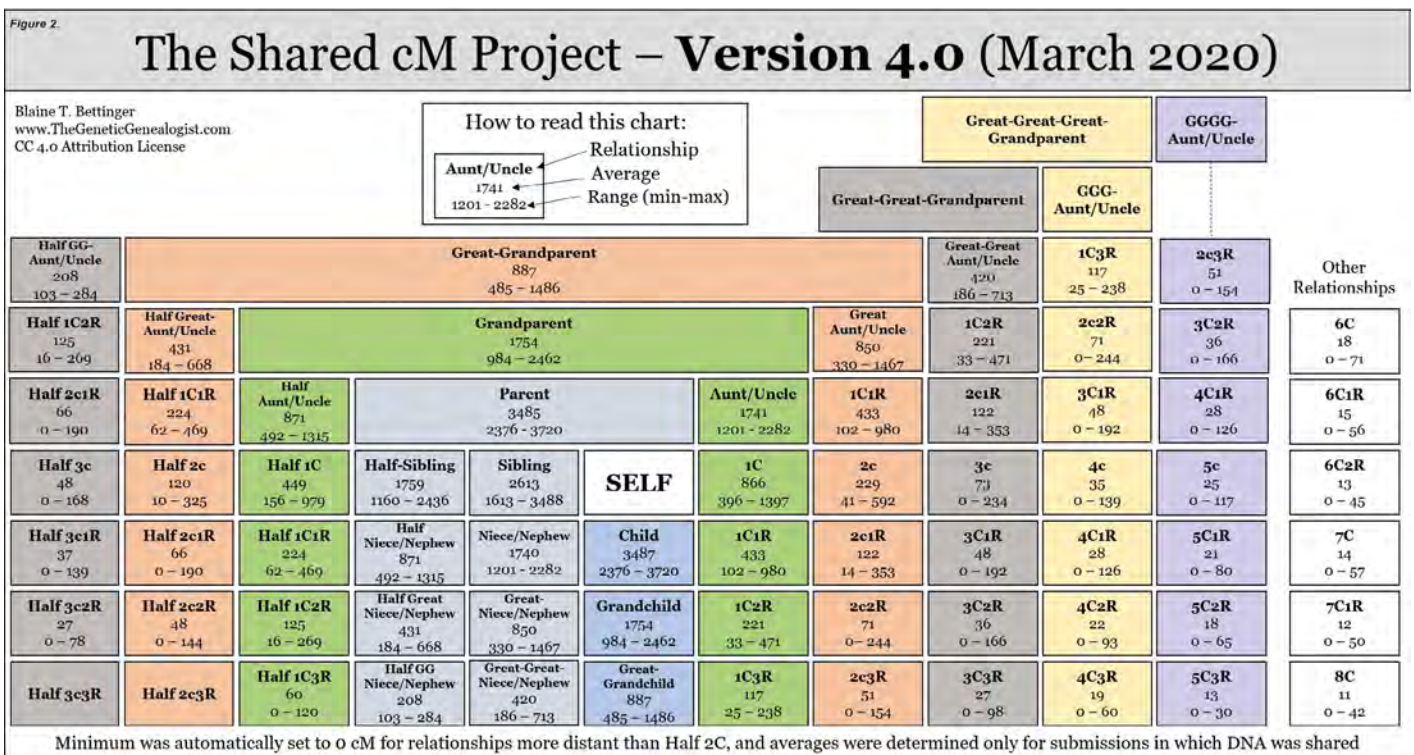


Figure 2 (below). Shared cM project relationship chart (courtesy of Blaine Bettinger, *The Genetic Genealogist*, 27 March 2020 (<https://thegeneticgenealogist.com>)).



A test for both biological males and females, mtDNA is used to help answer questions about relatedness on the direct maternal line. The Y-DNA test specifically targets males and focuses solely on the Y-Chromosome inherited from their father.

To ensure we are investigating the correct lineage, Y-DNA testing is valuable. It helps us decide the direction for our research. Subsequently, the AtDNA test allows us to find and label each DNA match within lineage. Finally, we employ the conventional genealogical process, commonly known as

Autosomal DNA refers to the 22 pairs of non-sex chromosomes that everyone inherits equally from both biological parents—approximately 50% from each. This DNA is a random mixture of both parents' genetic material, which they, in turn, inherited from their parents, creating a unique genetic profile for each individual. Unlike sex chromosomes, autosomal DNA testing can be taken by both biological males and females, making it a versatile tool for tracing ancestry. Because of the random recombination during inheritance, full siblings will have different admixtures of autosomal DNA, much like shuffled decks of cards where each child receives a different 'hand.'

Generational Admixture
With each generation, autosomal DNA undergoes further recombination, causing genetic contributions from ancestors

beyond five generations to diminish as illustrated in the chart.¹⁷ Some genetic material may persist through these ‘shuffles,’ while others may not. This makes autosomal DNA ideal for examining recent ancestry but less reliable for distant genealogical links. Unlike mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) or Y-chromosome DNA (Y-DNA), which trace direct maternal or paternal lines, autosomal DNA is a broader, more randomized ancestral picture. By comparing autosomal DNA with known relatives, individuals can map portions of their DNA to specific ancestral lines, despite the inherent randomness of inheritance.¹⁸

New Analysis Tools Evolving

You simply need to Google ‘DNA Tools’ to understand the intense interest in the DNA Analysis space, all working to purpose-build a tool that will serve up the best answers to the DNA test takers of the world. The foundation of our study effort is found in two especially important understandings as to DNA matching.

The first is the Shared cM Project-Version 4.0, led by the Genetic Genealogist, Blaine Bettinger. Blaine’s passion and leadership provides us with a 60,000 plus sample database giving everyone the gift of information.¹⁹ His work product gives us a paradigm for thinking about consanguineal relationships; how they are formed, when they formed, a range of expected metrics to measure such relationships, and then, how we might find them. This line of thinking was a catalyst in designing the Yates Cousin DNA study.

And, then the ‘Leeds Method’ gave promise for finding certain ancestors and relatives. As Dana Leeds explains, ‘*Unsure of how other people were sorting their Shared Matches from AncestryDNA, I developed my own method: the Leeds Method of DNA Color Clustering. This simple and quick method helps you easily visualize how your close cousins are related to you and each other. I created this method while working with an adoptee, and it works wonderfully for unknown parentage cases where the cousins are strangers, and their true relationships are unknown.*’

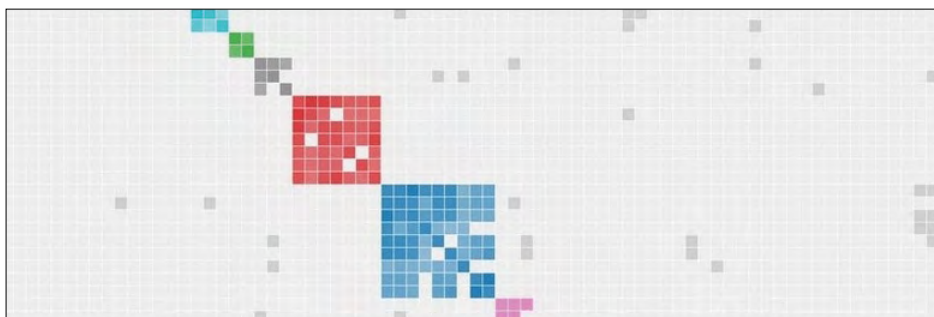


Figure 3. Illustrates how sorting in the Leeds method will reveal DNA relationship which cluster into groups.

Figure 3 illustrates how sorting with the Leeds Method will reveal DNA relationships that cluster into groups. The Yates cousin DNA study packages these practical methods into a process that is granular, recursive and includes high numbers of test takers and matches to improve the accuracy of our findings.

New Use of DNA Match Information

This study employs a dual approach method that does not directly match the DNA of distant ancestors. Instead, it finds living individuals who share DNA links, referred to as DNA

cousins. The ancestral lines of these matches are curated and displayed for comparison. Collateral lines were aggregated to reveal new possibilities for ancestors.

The higher the number of DNA test takers that can be included in the study will improve the accuracy of the data. Our findings are not absolute, but they show patterns and offer significant insights.²⁰

Once DNA connections are shown, the focus narrows to a specific lineage, in this case, the Yates line. This involves extensive genealogical data collection from various original research, existing Yates family trees, evaluated for consistency to enhance accuracy and completeness.

The first matter of importance was deciding if our novel method would achieve the goals we had established. To test this, we processed 1,200 DNA match ancestral lines during 2023-2024. Our objective was to assess whether analyzing high volumes of DNA data and curated lines would reveal dominant ancestral patterns.

The dataset yielded a clear and substantial set of results, defining dominant family lines. Notably, ten ancestral lines accounted for 95% of all lines analyzed. Below, we categorize these lines into three groups: *Dominant Yates Lines*, *Emerging Yates Lines*, and *Notable Yates Lines*. Further details about each person mentioned can be found on the Yates, One-Name Study Website.²¹

The Dominant Yates Lines

D1: Francis Yates

- **Birth/Death:** Born in 1541 in Lyford Grange, Berkshire, England (son of Thomas Yates, founder of Lyford Yates, and Frances White). Died in 1588 in The Tower, London.
- **Marriage:** Jane Tichborne in 1569. Jane was born in 1550 in Lyford, Berkshire, England.
- **Dataset Contribution:** Their ancestral lines accounted for **781** descending lines, representing **69% of the dataset**.

Emerging Yates Lines

E1: William Yates

- **Birth/Death:** Born circa 1720 in Maryland. Died date unknown.
- **Marriage:** Married Anne Thornbury in 1744 in Baltimore, Maryland. Anne (daughter of John Thornbury and Elizabeth Tayloe) was born circa 1725 in Maryland.
- **Notes:** The parents of William Yates remain unidentified.
- **Dataset Contribution:** Their ancestral lines accounted for **160** descending lines, representing **14% of the dataset**.

E2: John Thomas Yates, Esq.

- **Birth/Death:** Born in 1572 in West Hanney, Berkshire, England (son of Thomas Yates). Died in 1658.
- **Marriage:** Elizabeth Hatfield, born in 1570 in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England.
- **Dataset Contribution:** Their ancestral lines accounted for 40 descending lines, representing 4% of the dataset.

E3: Joseph Christopher Yates, Jr.

- **Birth/Death:** Born in 1647 in England. Died in 1730 in New York and was buried in the Reformed Dutch Church Cemetery, Albany, New York.
- **Marriage:** Married Huybertje Marcelis in 1683 in Albany, New York. Huybertje (daughter of Janse Marcelis and Annatie Ryerse Gerritse) was born in 1662 in New York and died in 1730 in New York.
- **Dataset Contribution:** Their ancestral lines accounted for 40 descending lines, representing 4% of the dataset.

E4: Abraham Yates, Jr.

- **Birth/Death:** Born circa 1783 in New Jersey (son of Abraham Yates, Sr.). Died in 1853 in Pennsylvania.
- **Marriages:**
 - o Phebe Willets in 1805 in Cape May, New Jersey. Phebe (daughter of Enoch Willets and Phebe Willets) was born in 1787 in New Jersey and died in 1819 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 - o Hannah in 1821 in Pennsylvania. Hannah was born in 1796 in New Jersey and died in 1855 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- **Dataset Contribution:** Their ancestral lines accounted for 31 descending lines, representing 3% of the dataset.

E5: James Yates

- **Birth/Death:** Born circa 1770 in Virginia. Died in 1815 in Orange, Virginia.
- **Marriage:** Married Sarah Sanford in 1789 in Orange, Virginia. Sarah (daughter of Peirce Sanford and Elizabeth Sampson) was born circa 1770 in Virginia and died in 1854 in Mercer, Kentucky.
- **Dataset Contribution:** Their ancestral lines accounted for 25 descending lines, representing 2% of the dataset.

E6: John Yates, Sr.

- **Birth/Death:** Born in 1737 in Columbus, North Carolina. Died in 1818 in Columbus, North Carolina.
- **Marriage:** Married Elizabeth Barfield in 1765 in North Carolina. Elizabeth was born circa 1740.
- **Dataset Contribution:** Their ancestral lines accounted for 22 descending lines, representing 2% of the dataset.

Notable Yates Lines**N1: William Yates**

- **Birth/Death:** Born in 1795 in Virginia. Died in 1866 in Pope, Illinois.
- **Marriage:** Married Sally Parker in 1823 in Estill, Kentucky. Sally was born in 1806 in Tennessee.
- **Notes:** The parents of William Yates remain unidentified.
- **Dataset Contribution:** Their ancestral lines accounted for 13 descending lines, representing 1% of the dataset.

N2: William Yates

- **Birth/Death:** Born in 1632 in York, Yorkshire, England. Christened in 1632 in Yorkshire, England, and died in 1697 in Donington, Shropshire, England.

- **Marriage:** Married Margaret Catherine Bond in 1665 in Donington, Shropshire, England. Margaret (daughter of Richard Bond and Eleanor Hill) was born in 1644 in Ludlow, Shropshire, England, and died in 1706 in Donington, Shropshire, England.
- **Dataset Contribution:** Their ancestral lines accounted for 14 descending lines, representing 1% of the dataset.

N3: John Yates, Sr.

- **Birth/Death:** Born in 1619 in England. Christened in 1641 in York, Yorkshire, England.
- **Marriage:** Married Ursly Mehitable Stratton. Ursly was born in 1626 in New Hampshire and died in 1701 in New Jersey.
- **Dataset Contribution:** Their ancestral lines accounted for 12 descending lines, representing 1% of the dataset.

Next Step: Targeting Guidance from the Results

We took advantage of the guidance derived from our study findings. From D1 above, we selected a sub-part line that represents 667 descending lines or 59% by itself.

Our gateway ancestor, George Yate(s) was born in 1639 in Ufton Court, Berkshire, England (son of John Yates and Mary Elizabeth Tettershall) and died in 1691 in Anne Arundel, Maryland. George married Mary Wells in 1672, the (daughter of Richard Wells, MD, and Frances White) who was born in 1643 in Norfolk, Virginia and died in 1698 in Anne Arundel, Maryland.

Their notable children include, George Yates born in 1674 in Anne Arundel, Maryland and died in November 1717 in Baltimore, Maryland. John Yates was born in 1675 in Anne Arundel, Maryland and died in 1722 in Anne Arundel, Maryland. A daughter Anne Yates was born in 1677 in Anne Arundel, Maryland and died in 1735 in Maryland.

A special focus of the Yates One-Name Study is to identify ancestral lines to properly identify connections and migration patterns of three distinct groups. The first group is the '*most recently known ancestors*.' The second group is the hardest group for most which we name as the '*colonial group*.' This group is the link between our most recently known ancestors and our '*distant ancestors*.' Our distant ancestors for this work are based in Berkshire, England from 1350.²²

Two sons of George Yate(s) and Mary Wells can be split for descending lines. The lines of George Yates-Rachal Warfield represent (82 for 27%) and John Yates-Elizabeth Tucker represent (51 for 17%) of their parents' descendants. We selected George Yates-Warfield (82 for 27%) to target a connecting colonial line.

The DNA test types each have their limitations, so strategies needed to be used to derive accurate results to make progress. We used autosomal DNA testing for granular comparison of 5-7 generations of current testers with 1,200 Yates matches. We used Y-DNA testing to confirm the Yates male line and the Haplogroup. We used computer scripting to produce large datasets for collation and sorting. This dual approach has enabled us to focus our targeted genealogy search for our study meaningfully.

Figure 4.

DNA Cousin Surname App

(This list of ancestors is a product of the Yates One Name Study; 12 December 2024; Ronald Yates, Registrant)

Match to	Ancestral Lines: 143 Samuel Yates-Johannah Gould ancestral lines.
lupatm	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
ratesronald	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
walcidf	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
walcidf	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
wishardglen	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
ratesronald	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
ratesronald	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
ratespatricial	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
ratespatricial	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
ratesronald	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
ratesandreal	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
tellopt	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
ratesjohnh	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
prfmanandry	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
adamssarah	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
adamssarah	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
adamssarah	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
adamssarah	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane
ratesjohnh	YatesFrancis&TichborneJane---YatesThomas&StephensDorothy---YatesJohn&TettershallMaryEliz---YatesGeorge1&WellsMary---YatesGeorge2&WarfieldRachael---YatesSamuel&GouldJohannah---YatesJoshua&BoydstonMehitable---YatesFrancis&TichborneJane

Figure 4. DNA Cousin Surname App.

Analyzing Ancestral Line Data

Within the George Yates-Warfield five prominent descending lines we identified the Joshua Yates-Nancy Boydston line as most relevant for our purposes. As previously suggested, Ron Yates has concluded that this is his proper colonial line. For this analysis, those lines that fell to his ‘brick Wall’ ancestor have not been included. A partial view of the data of this analysis is included for illustration purposes (Figure 4) with the full detailed view available at Yates, One-Name Study Website.^{23,24}

We found 143 descending ancestral lines associated directly with the Joshua Yates-Nancy Boydston. Sixty-two percent of all descending lines are associated with the study authors (48 for Pat Hatfield and 40 for Ron Yates).

We conclude that our findings are compelling and persuasive; 1. A dominant Yates line was identified with a high-volume number of DNA matches, 2. A brick wall ancestor has been assigned with compelling data to a colonial ancestor,²⁵ 3. DNA curated family trees associated with this study comport comfortably with established genealogical findings, 4. Pat Hatfield and Ron Yates share a common DNA ancestor and are distant cousins of the Yates line.

Summary

Collaborative efforts with others with different skills can be rewarding and pay dividends. Dual approach studies can reveal unknown ancestors and fill in details of slim paper trails and point to new areas to search. Greater consumer use of DNA findings and more programming to manipulate data in new ways will be beneficial.

Are We Cousins?

We want to break more Yates brick walls and solve additional mysteries. You might be a cousin and not realize it; some connections dangle at the very end of many lines and descend through maternal lines.

If you suspect you might have a connection and have taken an AncestryDNA test, perhaps we can help, please make contact. You need only use the Ancestry.com share link to share your DNA matches.

We have encountered these Yates name variations: Yeatts, Yeats, Yat, Yate, Yetts, Yaites, Yahtes, Yaytes, Yaetes, Yattes, Yaets, Yaittes, Yaates, Yatts, Yats, Yaits, Yaaates, Yaties, Yaats, Yaitts, Yatte, Yathes, Yayte, Jeets, Jaets, Eights, Aytes, Yaite.

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Ron is studying the surname Yates with the variants Yaits, Yate, Yatz, Yeates, and Yeats and he can be contacted at: ronald.yates@one-name.org.

Ron’s members’ website project can be found at: yates.one-name.net.

My Family History A Lancashire Odyssey

by Judith Farrell (9211)

Many years ago I started work on tracing my direct paternal line and in those pre-digitisation days spent time at the family research centre at the Mormon Temple in Chorley, at The Lancashire Record Office in Preston and at many Lancashire libraries where I could view their microfiche holdings. It was slow progress and as I was working full-time and with a young family I didn't have much time to devote to the project.

When I retired fifteen years ago the research options available had grown enormously and I now had time, so I dusted off the small box file of neatly written cards, fired up the laptop and set to work. Now I have a direct line tree containing over 4,000 names, 140 more trees of indirect ancestors, many, many, contacts around the world, and a job for life.

My maiden name is Grindrod and I now know that every Grindrod in the world traces their ancestors back to the Rochdale area of east Lancashire, to Ricci Grindrod (Richard Grindrod - 1595-1664) and his forefathers. The name comes from the Norse/Old English place names in the area - Grene (green) Rod (a clearing); Grene Royd (green valley). Green in this context means 'new' - an area cleared for agricultural use. There are at least sixteen different spellings of the name in the records of St Chad's Church, Rochdale, but Grindrod is the spelling settled on over time. The ancient Parish of Rochdale was most extensive, comprising the Townships of Butterworth, Castleton, Spotland and Wardleworth, Wuerdle and Wardle, Blatchinworth, Calderbrook, Todmorden and Walsden. The last named seven Townships were grouped under the name of Hundersfield. The name Hundersfield is a corruption of Honorsfield which is derived from the word Honore, signifying a Saxon lord.

It's my ambition to record all the Grindrods. I'll never manage it of course but I enjoy doing the research and the social history is fascinating. It was helpful to me that my father's line have never left Lancashire in 500 years and I live here on the coast, so am able to visit everywhere in which I am interested. Of necessity I have learnt much about the history of Lancashire, of the people, of politics, of religion. Incorrectly transcribed and misspelt names have been challenging, some terrible trees posted online have irritated me beyond reason and discoveries which have sent me down previously unknown lines have made it all worthwhile.

The Grindrods were generally of the dissenting faiths, Wesleyan, Methodist and Quaker, as you would perhaps expect in east Lancashire, and are well documented in the records of Hardshaw, Marsden and Pilkington. *'The Compendium of Methodist Laws'* was written by Reverend



Rev. Edmund Grindrod (1786-1842).

Edmund Grindrod (1786-1842) and the John Rylands Library in Manchester houses an extensive Methodist archive. Many Grindrods were stonemasons and they supplied the stone for the building of Liverpool docks from their Cheshire quarries. A contemporary document speaks bitterly of the stranglehold that these 'men of the dissenting faiths' had on business at the docks.

Two of my direct ancestors, who were brothers and both stonemasons, migrated to Manchester from Rochdale at the start of the Industrial Revolution. They became wealthy property owners, particularly in the Piccadilly area, and diversified into many enterprises, handily marrying their daughters to the sons of their business partners. Their sons became businessmen (one being described as 'the only honest stockbroker') and medical doctors. Dr Ralph Barnes Grindrod preached to thousands in the streets of Manchester about the evils of alcohol and, according to records, 'spent two fortunes' in establishing The Band of Hope. My cousin and I are descended from the sons of Dr Ralph's father's second marriage; no fortunes for us - the first lot had it! Dr Ralph became a famous hydropathic doctor in Malvern, Worcestershire, and a water fountain dedicated to him is in the grounds of Malvern College. His son was Dr Charles Grindrod, a medical practitioner but also a talented amateur photographer. He was a great friend of the composer Edward Elgar and the photograph that illustrates many works on Elgar and is on the Elgar website is known as 'The Grindrod Portrait'.

Of course many of the Grindrods worked in the weaving and cotton industries, in mining and on the land. Along with many of their neighbours some emigrated to Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the USA. In the USA there was a drive



Dr Ralph Barnes Grindrod MD
(1811-1883).

to industrial development in the northern states, such as Pennsylvania, and the skills of weavers and dyers were much in demand. Those Grindrods with an agricultural background went west to Montana and beyond and some stayed in Canada, where they first landed - there is a town in British Columbia named Grindrod. From the mid-1700s some were enlisted into the militia and the military and served with British armies in Canada, South Africa and India.

The research goes on, there is always another line to follow and then the discovery of a relationship and trees to merge. All my trees are publicly available on the Ancestry website and I have met so many 'relatives' online and in person - the lady in Devon who I visited and was astonished to find had displayed on her lounge walls samplers worked by an ancestor of mine over two hundred years ago; the lady in Preston with whom I share a common ancestor; the gentleman who visited the WWI cemeteries in France carrying a red rose to place on the grave of the first Lancashire lad he came across, James Grindrod; Jackie Grindrod in America - we started off on family history but now share long gossips about our lives on either side of the pond; Roger, who sends me old documents to transcribe; the chap who has just moved into an old Rochdale farmhouse and has found evidence of a Grindrod, a previous owner, in the cellar.



James Grindrod (1893-1918)
(courtesy of Rochdalians
Remembered, Findagrave.com).



James Grindrod's gravestone
Ecoivres Military Cemetery,
France (courtesy of SLMGC,
Findagrave.com).

A few years ago my daughter and myself were wandering the grounds of St Chad's Church, Rochdale, scrutinising the gravestones which have been laid flat around the church to create a walkway. Through the grey drizzle appeared an elderly lady dressed in flowing eastern robes. She asked what we were doing and, despite her limited English and my non-existent Arabic, we managed to have a conversation and I explained that we were looking for our ancestors. She told us of her life in the Middle East, how her parents had died when she was young, she was raised by her grandparents, her husband had died and now she was living with her son in Rochdale. She gestured around and said how she often sits on the bench in the churchyard and she says a prayer for all the people buried there 'it's an Arab prayer, but that doesn't matter, because we are all the same'.

The blood of Ricci Grinderoode has spread far and wide - the humble, the titled, the rich, the poor - the Peaky Blinder in Birmingham, the murderer in Manchester, the daughter marrying into an aristocratic family descended from Anne of Austria and the Dauphins of France, the weaver who died in the Rochdale workhouse, the women who died in childbirth, the preachers who travelled Lancashire spreading the Wesleyan gospel, the yeomen, the colliers, those who went to the new world seeking a better life - one family, rooted in Lancashire.

I often think of that charming lady we met in St Chad's churchyard and, despite having no religious beliefs myself, am moved and grateful that she prays for our ancestors in this corner of Lancashire 'because we are all the same'.

[Editor - Judith's article was originally published in Archives - Lancashire History Magazine, 2023, Issue three, published by Lancashire County Council].

Judith is studying the surname Grindrod and can be contacted at: judith.farrell@one-name.org.

Let's spread the family history word

by Thomas H F Kidman (383)

We are all aware how numbers of family history (FH) society members are falling. This will be down to a variety of reasons but I believe we may be able to help in one way.

If more people get interested in their own ancestors then there are more people who may join FH societies. Here is my suggestion how we may be able to help and have a bit of fun at the same time.

You may have made or received a calendar with a personal photograph for each month, produced by one of the many photo-product companies. How about designing your own calendar for family members?

The photographs could be ancestors, either individuals or groups, one or more to a page. Alternatively places where ancestors lived or worked. In all cases there would be some indication of the subjects and their dates.

One could then go a step further by using a FH programme to list dates of birth of close cousins or cousins with the same surname. Such cousins would ideally be listed in the relevant date box but it may be easier to have them in a table as part of the photograph(s) page. That way recipients could see which other family members share their birthday.

I am sure there are many more options so this is meant to be just a starting point for your imagination.

Tracing Lineage through Adversity

The Life of Lavinia May Randell and the Challenges of Genealogical Research

by Jeanette Martin (9222)

The story of Lavinia May Randell offers a poignant glimpse into the trials faced by individuals born into challenging circumstances and the complexities of tracing family history. Born on 20 December 1930, in the Public Assistance Institution in Abercennen, Ffairfach, Llandilo, Lavinia was the daughter of Violet May Randell (1907-1931), a domestic servant employed at Aberdaunant Farm, Llansadwrn, Llandovery, South Wales. Tragically, Violet passed away from broncho-pneumonia and influenza shortly after childbirth, leaving her infant daughter to enter the workhouse system at just 15 days old.

Lavinia's birth certificate identifies David John, an employee of the Public Assistance Institution, as the informant. According to historical records, David John served as General Assistant to the institution's master in 1921 and had risen to the position of Master by 1939. Lavinia's birthplace, tied to the Public Assistance Institution, reflects the broader socio-economic challenges of the era and underscores the significance of institutional care in shaping lives during the early 20th century.

Lavinia May Randell represents the first known instance of the Randell surname in her lineage. Tracing this maternal line reveals a series of challenges, particularly in navigating the many variations of the Randell surname and its associated records.

Challenges of Surname Variations in Genealogy

Genealogical research often encounters hurdles related to surname variations, and the Randell family is no exception. Historical records reveal numerous spelling variations that complicate the task of establishing consistent family connections. Understanding the reasons behind these variations is key to overcoming such obstacles.

Variations Found for the Surname Randell in census records between 1841-1921

Randal	Rendal
Randall	Rendall
Randel	Rendel
Randell	Rendell
Randle	Rendle
Randol	Rendol
Raindle	

Reasons for Surname Variations

1. Spelling Variations

- Phonetic Spellings:** Historically, surnames were often recorded as they sounded, leading to variations such as 'Smith' appearing as 'Smyth' or 'Smithe.'

- Illiteracy and Clerical Errors:** Many historical documents note that individuals were unable to read or write, leaving the spelling of their surnames to the discretion of clerks or clergy. For example, 'Johnson' might appear as 'Jonson' or 'Jansen.' Such discrepancies were especially common in marriage records, where couples could not confirm the spelling of their own names.

2. Regional and Dialectal Differences

- Accents and Dialects:** Regional accents often influenced how surnames were recorded. Variations such as 'Gordon' being written as 'Gorden' highlight the impact of local pronunciation. In the case of the Randell family, such differences could have been exacerbated when census enumerators or clergy unfamiliar with the area recorded names phonetically.
- Intra-family Variations:** Records reveal instances where parents and children in the same family had differently spelled surnames. Over time, these variations could become normalised within family groups, leading to distinct branches of a single family bearing different surname spellings.

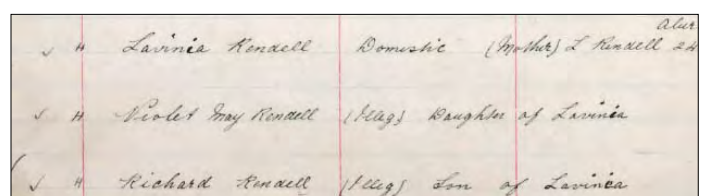
3. Transcription Errors

- Manual Transcription:** Errors in reading historical documents have led to inaccuracies in digitised genealogical records. Handwriting in birth, baptism, census, and other records can be difficult to decipher, and optical character recognition technology is not immune to mistakes.
- Reliance on Unverified Sources:** Many genealogy enthusiasts accept automated hints on platforms like Ancestry without cross-referencing original documents. This practice can perpetuate errors, such as incorrect spellings or dates, and lead to the creation of inconsistencies within family trees.

One such example encountered whilst searching records in the Merthyr Tydfil Workhouse and census records for Violet May Randell (1907-1931) highlight the problems variations can have on records, especially regarding surnames, in this case the original name of Randell.

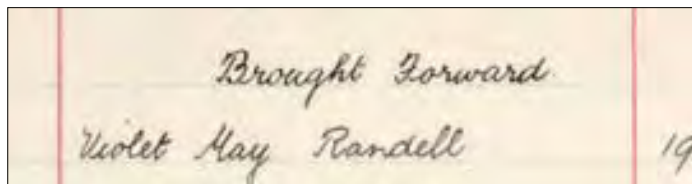
Workhouse Entry February 1910 with her mother Lavinia and brother Richard

This document highlights this problem with a surname variation as Rendell from the original of Randell.



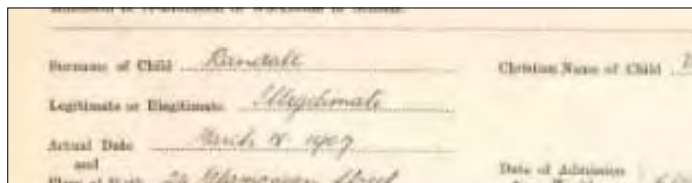
Workhouse Entry 31 August 1914

This document reflects Violet's surname as written on the GRO record. However, if the birth certificate or baptism certificate is not available there will be a problem validating the original spelling.



Workhouse Entry 3 December 1914

This document shows a third variation of Randall.



Minimising Errors

To minimise these errors occurring it is best to evaluate all records for each person to identify when or where variation changes to the spelling of names occurred. A good practice is to check what type of document is being used for example was it a primary or secondary source, learn the different scripts used through the centuries.

Research Tips useful when searching a particular family where variations are found in documents:

- **Use Wildcards:** When searching for surname variations in databases, use wildcards to account for spelling differences.
- **Check Multiple Sources:** Look at different types of records, such as census data, birth certificates, and immigration records, to find different versions of a surname.
- **Consult Local Histories:** Understanding local naming conventions and historical context can provide clues about surname variations.

The Importance of Vigilance in Genealogical Research

To navigate the complexities of surname variations, researchers must approach genealogical investigations with diligence. Consulting original documents, cross-referencing multiple sources, and critically evaluating transcription accuracy are essential practices. Failing to do so can lead to significant errors, such as overwriting accurate records or introducing inaccuracies into family trees.

The story of Lavinia May Randell and the research into her family history underscore the importance of preserving historical accuracy while acknowledging the socio-historical factors that influence record-keeping. Her legacy, shaped by adversity and the resilience of institutional care, offers both a testament to individual endurance and a reminder of the intricacies involved in uncovering our past.

Jeanette has no surname registered and can be contacted at: jeanette.martin@one-name.org.

Election of new Guild Trustees following the 2025 AGM

by Alan Toplis (4185)

As the Returning Officer for the Guild of One-Name Studies it is my duty to declare the nominations for election to the Guild Trustees following the 2025 AGM.

As only four valid and properly accepted nominations to fill up to five vacancies were received there was no requirement for an election to take place. In total eight nominations were made but only four candidates properly accepted their nominations and subsequently submitted election statements.

I therefore declare:

- Dennis Allsopp - Australia - Member No. 6825
- Michelle Burdis - UK - Member No. 6706
- Steven J Coker - USA - Member No. 7161
- Julie D Goucher - UK - Member No. 3925

to serve as trustees from the date of the 2025 AGM in addition to those four already in post with continuing service.

Dennis Allsopp, Michelle Burdis and Steven Coker will serve from the date of the 2025 AGM until the date of the AGM to be held in 2028.

Julie Goucher will serve from the date of the 2025 AGM until the date of the 2027 AGM.

In all four cases the candidates may then continue to offer themselves for re-election again after their term of office is completed.

Election statements for the four successful candidates may be found at:

https://one-name.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/wpmembers/vote/2025_comm_Election%20Statements%202025.pdf?utm_source=brevot&utm_campaign=Chairmans%20Newsletter%20March%202025&utm_medium=email.

The 2025 Guild AGM will be held online on Saturday 31 May.

2025 Conference Update

Attending the Liverpool Conference from Home

by Melody McKay Burton (7997)

Are You Ready?

How to Access 'Gateway to the World' as a Remote Attendee
If you've registered to attend the 2025 Guild conference as a remote attendee, you will access the livestreamed and other sessions via what is called the *Event Hub*, which is a feature of *Eventzilla*, the platform for the hybrid side of the conference. The *Event Hub* will enable you to view the sessions and ask questions and chat to other attendees in the online Conference Lobby.

You should ensure that you can access the *Event Hub* well before the conference date so we can assist you with any issues you encounter. Please don't leave it until the last minute, as we are a very small team and may not be able to help you once the conference is underway.

The *Event Hub* is accessible already and many of those who have registered have been in to look. If you haven't checked in, then please try now. Although you won't be able to watch any of the talks until the conference begins, you can see who else will attend, leave messages, and chat with other attendees.

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU CHECK YOU CAN ACCESS THE EVENT HUB PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE SO THERE IS TIME TO HELP YOU IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES

How to Access the Event Hub?

You'll find the *Event Hub* here: <https://www.eventzilla.net/v/guild-conference-2025-gateway-to-the-world-2138618493>.



QR code for the conference Event Hub.

We will email you a link to this page prior to the conference and we suggest you Bookmark it for easy access. You will also find the link on the Conference page of the Guild website, or you can access the Login using the QR code.

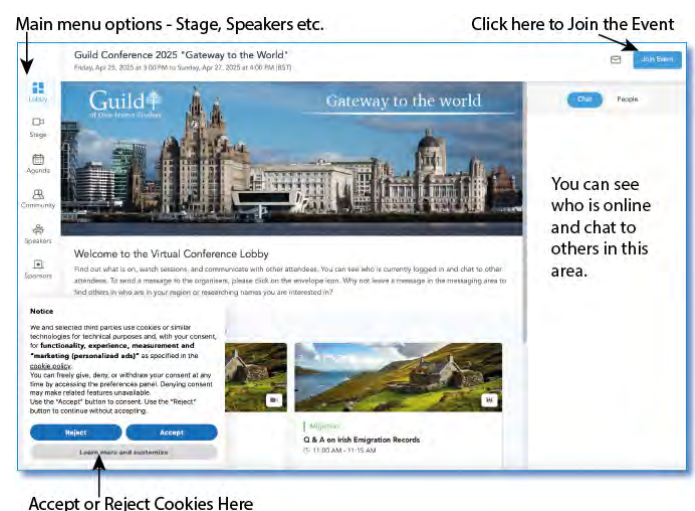
To enter the *Event Hub*, you'll need the email address you registered with and your password. If you can't remember your password, you can reset it.

At the *Event Hub* Login, enter the email address you used to register for the event. If you have more than one email address and can't remember which you used, please contact the organisers at liverpool-bookings@one-name.org and we should be able to help you.

Enter your email address and click Proceed. You will be prompted to enter your password.

Can't remember your password? Click on Forgot password? and you will be sent an email with instructions to reset your password.

If you have accessed the hub previously, you may be directed to log in at the Conference Lobby page. The image shows what the Conference Lobby looks like. This is the place you will come to when you log in.



Accept or Reject Cookies Here

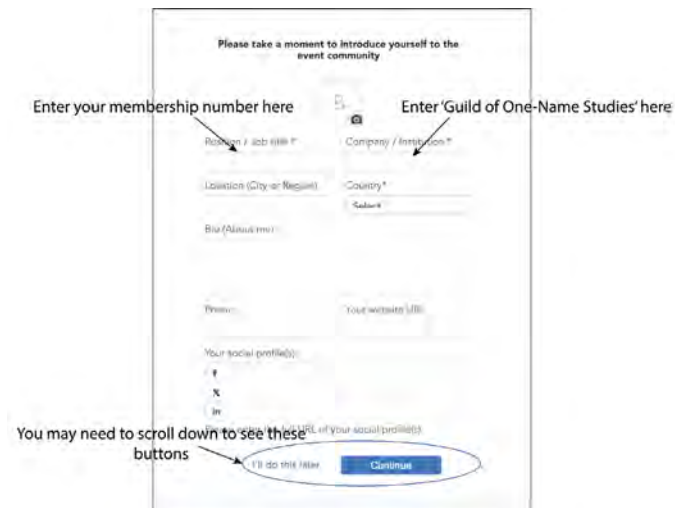
Clicking on Join Event will bring up the window where you can log in.

Setting up Your Profile for the Event

Once you have signed in, you may be automatically prompted to introduce yourself to the conference community by completing a Profile Form. This will help other attendees know who you are and what you are interested in. You can also set up and edit your profile by clicking on the symbol at the top right that has your initials, then selecting Edit Profile. You'll be presented with a form on which you can fill

in your details The form starts with Job Title and Company/ Institution. These aren't relevant for most members, so use your membership number as Job Title, or if you are a Guild postholder, your position. Enter Guild of One-Name Studies as the institution.

There are buttons to Continue or Do it later below the form - you may need to scroll down to see them.



The image shows a registration form titled "Please take a moment to introduce yourself to the event community". The form has several fields: "Enter your membership number here" (with a note "Name / Job title"), "Enter 'Guild of One-Name Studies' here" (with a note "Company / Institution"), "Location (City or Region)", "Country", "State", "Bio (Max 100)", "Phone", "Your website URL", and "Your social profile(s)". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "I'll do this later" and "Continue". An annotation "You may need to scroll down to see these buttons" points to the bottom of the form.

Finding Your Way Around

You enter the *Event Hub* at the virtual Conference Lobby. Look around and explore the different areas to become familiar with the layout before the conference begins. On the left of the window, you'll see a vertical menu bar with icons for:

- **Lobby** - click here to return to the 'Home' screen of the event
- **Stage** - click here to access the livestream of the talks once the event is active
- **Agenda** - see what is due to be broadcast
- **Community** - see who the other attendees are and send messages
- **Speakers** - find out more about the speakers
- **Sponsors** - our sponsors logos with links

At the top right you'll see icons that you can click on to contact the organisers and send messages to individual attendees. To post a message that all attendees can see, use the general Chat area on the right. You can message to say hello, find out who else is researching in the same geographic areas or ask a question about one of the topics. You can also use this area to arrange to 'meet' at one of the scheduled Zoom sessions.

Attending the Conference in-person?

We've been asked whether those who are attending the conference in person can have access to the *Event Hub* as well as remote attendees. We'd certainly encourage those coming to Liverpool to visit the *Event Hub* to communicate with the remote attendees.

Eventzilla charges a fee for each person who accesses their *Event Hub* so we don't want to automatically register all attendees, or we could be paying fees for those who will

never visit the *Event Hub*. But, if you have paid to attend the full event, rather than just a single day, we can arrange for you to be registered to access the Hub. Please contact the organisers at liverpool-bookings@one-name.org and ask to be added. Please do this well ahead of time. As mentioned earlier, we are a small team and will be extremely busy on the conference days.

Pleas from the Organisers

We're looking forward to seeing everyone either in Liverpool or virtually.

This is the first time the Guild has attempted to run a hybrid conference. We are doing it on a shoestring budget to try to keep it affordable for as many members as possible. Whether the Guild runs any future hybrid events will depend largely on whether we attract sufficient remote attendees to make future events viable. Our first plea is to please encourage those you know to attend.

If you've attended any of the big virtual or hybrid events in the USA, you may have used software such as Whova to access the talks. While we would have loved to use this as well, the cost of it was way above our budget when we didn't know how many attendees we would get. We are using *Eventzilla* which is more affordable but less well known. We'll try to ensure everything runs smoothly but please bear with us if there are any hiccups. As you will also know from those other events, things do go awry from time to time ... please be patient.

Eventzilla Mobile App

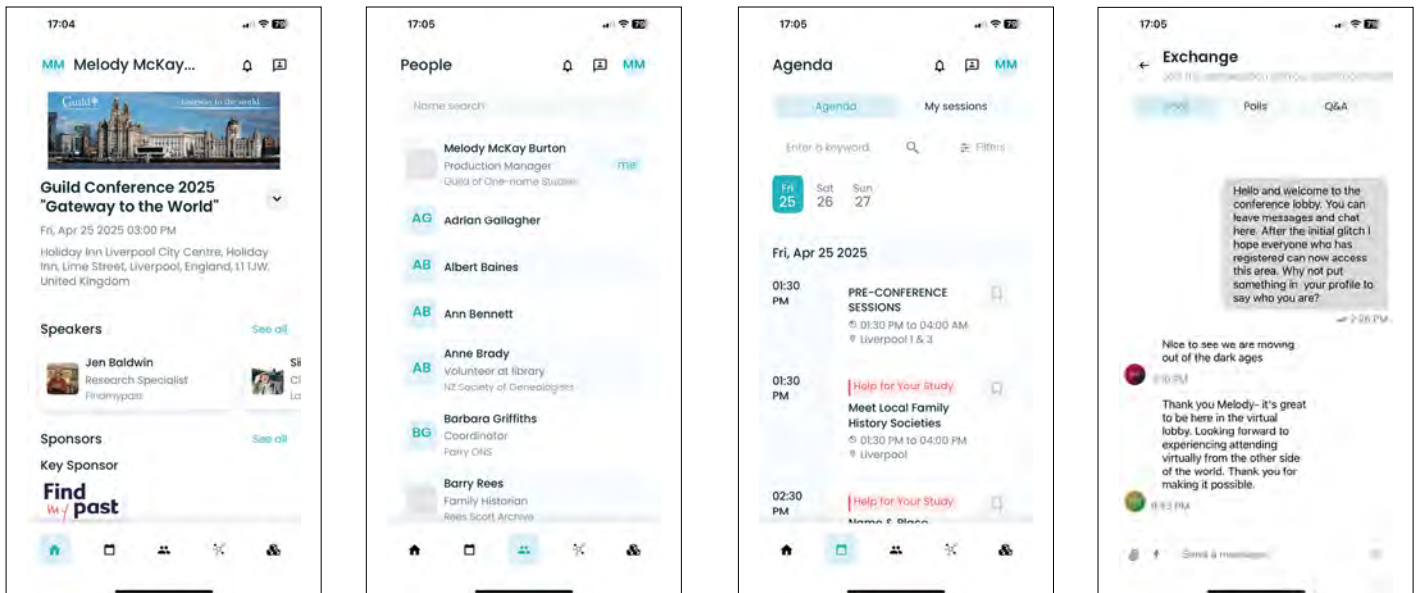
There's one last thing to share with you. While it is best to watch the livestreamed talks by accessing the *Event Hub*, preferably with a desktop or laptop computer, remote attendees can see details of the event - speakers, schedule etc. - on their mobile phones using the *Eventzilla* mobile app. Scan the QR code to download the app. We will send you a digital version of the conference handbook, but the mobile app may be more useful. You can also chat to other attendees directly from your phone.

QR code for Eventzilla mobile app

We don't have detailed instructions for using the app but here are images of the main screens- the Intro screen of the app, People, Agenda, and Exchange, which is where you can chat. We hope features like the mobile app will help our remote attendees to feel part of the event and enjoy some of the social side of a conference ... albeit at a distance.



QR code for the *Eventzilla* mobile app.



Obituaries

Each year at the AGM, the Guild remembers those members who have died during the preceding year. The Trustees feel that we should not only continue to do this, but to also remember those members in each Journal.

The following is a list of member deaths reported to the Guild since the previous issue. Full obituaries may appear in this or a later issue.

Number	Forename	Surname	Study 1	Study 2	Died	Location	Joined
301	Kenneth	Money	Money		2024	Norwich, Norfolk, England	1981
4096	James	Culbert	Culbert	Runkle	2024	McMinnville, Oregon, USA	2003
766	Paul	Oastler	Oastler		2024	Christchurch, Dorset, England	1985
1909	Peter	Alexander	Candler		2025	Eastleigh, Hampshire, England	1992
4971	Bill	Daniell			?	Portsmouth, Hampshire, England	2008
2678	Margaret	Froggatt			2024	Helston, Cornwall, England	2013
2629	Robert	Delderfield			2024	Benfleet, Essex, England	1996
2591	Colin	Carlin	Carlin		2023	Bath, Somerset, England	1996
3284	Gerry	Hayward	Pincott		2024/25	Bexley, Kent, England	1999
2773	Arthur	Carden	Carden		2025	Horsham, Sussex, England	1997

In Memory of Arthur Carden

Members of the Guild were saddened recently to hear of the loss of Arthur Carden. According to the Nenagh Guardian, he fell and broke his hip on 23 December and was recovering well from surgery, but died suddenly on 2 January, aged 95 years.



Arthur with Debbie Kennett at Who Do You Think You Are? Live in 2019.

Arthur joined the Guild in 1997, and registered the name of Carden as his one-name study. He was one of the first people to recognise the power of DNA for surname studies. The Carden DNA project, set up in 2001, was one of the early pioneering DNA projects. The project was first launched through Oxford Ancestors but later moved to FamilyTreeDNA. He published several books relating to his family history and one-name research.

An obituary can be found here: https://www.nenaghguardian.ie/2025/01/14/passing-of-arthur-carden/?fbclid=IwY2xjawlIpDdleHRuA2FibQlXMQABHcyTlvnhXXuz9g94g_86ShxSEfJRnTNLoxGJysf0nuNm128hLr_0KuloCQ_aem_YXxrwIFSy3YuaijgPA045g.

Rest in peace, Arthur.

Reflections of a Greybeard

by Howard Benbrook MCG (President, 3112)

In an unguarded moment I offered to Jean-Marc that I could write a piece for the Journal, something I did many years ago, because it seemed to me that many things had changed since those earlier contributions and that maybe I could make some comment to spark some interest. So, I opened up a new MS-Word document (I've been using Microsoft technology since the Dark Ages) and, blow me, but there's an offer to use 'CoPilot':



Select the icon or press Alt + i to draft with Copilot

A One-Name study, unAided?

CoPilot, for those not amongst the cognoscenti, is Microsoft's version of an AI tool that links into its Office suite including its web browser, Edge. So, there, right away, is one subject to discuss. And what, do you all think, could AI contribute to your research into family history and your registered name in particular? I'm no expert at this, but I've had a go; my naïve enquiry ('What can you tell me of the origins of the surname Benbrook?') yielded the following:

"In conclusion, the Benbrook family history is a rich tapestry woven from the threads of migration, adaptation, and resilience. It stands as a reminder of the importance of remembering our roots and honouring the journeys of those who came before us. As the Benbrook family continues to grow and evolve, its members carry forward a legacy that ties them to their past, while looking forward to the future with pride and hope".

All a bit obvious, much like an astrological prediction but zero facts nor any directions on where to find the gems. Maybe I was expecting too much or, more likely, I gather that you need to help it 'learn' first and it also seems to be dependent on just how you ask the questions - as with human interviewing!

By the way, I just love the fact that at the recent global conference on AI the French presentations referred to 'Intelligence Artificielle' - IA to you and me ...



But then I tried using the exact same question in a standard browser search box and that led me to a site called Name Census (<https://namecensus.com/>) which got me very excited: some apparently fantastic results that included a list of 'notable Benbrooks', including Sir John Benbrook (1545-1612), a wealthy merchant and landowner from Leicestershire, William Benbrook (1673-1731), an English painter known for his portraits and landscapes, and Emily Benbrook (1902-1987), a pioneering aviator. Trouble is, it was all a load of tosh; none of these people ever existed! Why do people create this sort of misinformation?

'Assume' makes an ASS out of U and ME

I like to browse the questions and opinions of members on the Guild Mail Forum (<https://groups.io/g/goons/topics>) and one item caught my eye a few days ago that gave me pause for thought. The topic threaded its way to the point where it seemed that the same person had been entered more than once in a US census, which was a puzzle to those of us familiar with the UK practice of a census being taken on one particular night; this is not the case in large countries like the US and it made me realise just how easily we can all make innocent assumptions.

I nearly fell for another assumption last night. In his will of 1672, John Banbrooke of Potterspury allows his 'mother in law', Elizabeth Banbrooke, to stay in his house as long as she remains a widow. I hadn't questioned this relationship until it dawned on me that he was referring to someone who we would now call his step-mother (his mother, in law).

Back to front?

And here's something I may have mentioned elsewhere, but how many times have you plugged your one-name into the surname box for an online search? Masses of times, if you're anything like me. But did you ever try putting it into the forename box? I'd never considered it until one day I did it by mistake on FreeBMD (<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>) and, blow me, but I got a hit! Then, once I'd opened that particular door, I found others. There's a gamekeeper in Northamptonshire (b.1735) called Benbrook Sanders, and a Grocer in Somerset Co., New Jersey called Charles Benbrook Honeyman (b.1846). Sometimes (as in the last example) it's because of a family relationship - a grandmother's birth surname, for instance - but sometimes it's more elusive, like calling your child after a war hero (FreeBMD has 411 hits for a forename of Wellington), or a much admired preacher (plenty of Wesleys) or just a mate at the pub. But just pick up the hint and it can often lead to glittering prizes (as it has been for my gamekeeper).

Come to think of it - my own forename probably started out as a surname (the Dukes of Norfolk, anyone?).

Wishing you all some interesting journeys as you navigate your chosen name's history!

Howard.

Using Trove

by Kay Page (9253)



What is Trove?

To me, Trove is a treasure trove of information from digitised newspapers in Australia from 1803 to 1954. Unfortunately for family historians, copyright prevents more recent content.

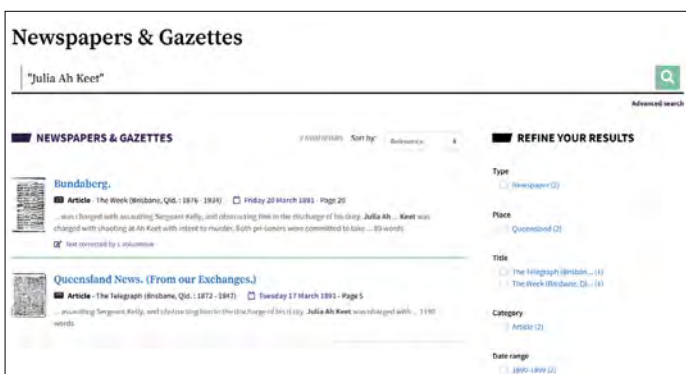
There are over 14 billion digital records including maps, magazines, photographs, diaries and other ephemera in Trove. It is freely available and held in libraries, archives museums, galleries, universities, research and community organisations. It is much more than just newspapers but the newspapers are the focus for this article.

The newspapers and Government Gazettes are full-text online copies. The digitisation has been made possible as a result of the collaborative efforts of more than 900 organisations and individuals. The bulk of the funding to make this possible has come from the National Library of Australia and the State Library of New South Wales.

A big part of the success of this site has been due to 'Voluntroves'. Since 2011 volunteers have been correcting text, adding tags and creating lists. Because OCR has been used, there can be errors which need correcting. It is simple to set up an account and then begin correcting text. This, in turn, makes Trove searches more successful for everyone.

Both the image and the transcript can be downloaded, so it is in your own best interest to correct the text initially. There is plenty of help on the site to get you familiar with how it works. I hope this synopsis whets your appetite to explore this wonderful resource.

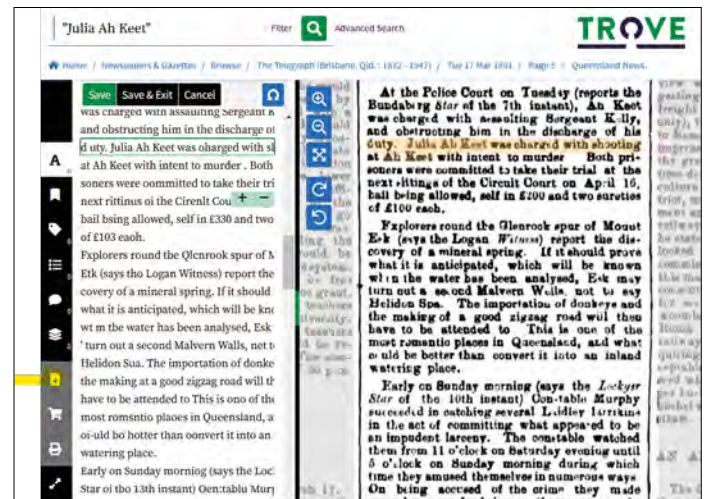
The following image is a recent example of my search for Irish-born 'Julia Ah Keet'.



This lady had quite a colourful life and the newspaper article certainly creates a vivid picture of what she endured. The

journalism is certainly different from today. Julia's rap sheet is quite astounding.

This last image gives an idea of the original newspaper report, the text ready to be corrected and the download option icon on the left-hand side which is highlighted in yellow.



The following report is an interesting story from a different article giving all the details of the case. The spelling errors are as per the original.

Toowoomba Chronicle and Darling Downs General Advertiser (Qld. 1875-1879; 1881-1902), Thursday 12 March 1891, page 3.

A Chinaman Shot

For some time past (reports the Bundaberg Star) the residents of East Bundaberg have had their slumbers broken and the peace of the neighbourhood disturbed by the conduct of a Chinaman, Ah Keet, who, with his consort—a white woman well known in town and familiar in the annals of the Police Court as Julia Stone—runs a house of ill-fame, principally patronised by kanakas, near the Prince of Wales Hotel. The pair have for some time been in the habit of quarrelling and keeping the neighbours in a state of alarm, and on one occasion recently shots were heard fired within the house. On Saturday evening, February 28, the pair quarrelled again, and a most disgusting fight was kept up between them for some hours. The revolver was again produced, and this time by the woman, who fired at Ah Keet. Mr. Fred Smith, hearing the shot, rushed to the house, and on entering found the female with the revolver pointed at Ah Keet and just about to again discharge the weapon. Mr. Smith stole up behind her and managed to wrest the revolver from her. Ah Keet had a furrowed wound on his head like that caused by a bullet grazing him. Sergeant Kelly was sent for, and on arrival decided to take the woman to the lockup. She was at the time partly undressed, and being permitted to enter a bedroom to get her clothes she escaped through the window. At midnight Sergeant Kelly again entered the house and found the outer room in darkness. Ah Keet stood there with something in his hand which the sergeant at first took for a stick of sugar cane, but which now turns out to have been a length of gaspiping. On the sergeant entering, the Chinaman receded into a dining room behind, where a lamp was burning, and endeavoured to put out the light. A struggle ensued, the Chinaman striking the sergeant on the arm with some weapon, believed to be an auger. The sergeant retreated to the bedroom and endeavoured to shut the door on his assailant, who kept on striking at him with

the auger. With the aid of his baton, however, the sergeant beat him back and locked the door on the inside. He was all the time possessed of a revolver, which Mr. Smith had handed to him, and to this fact he owed his life. Mrs. Stone, during the struggle at the door lay asleep in bed, and did not wake until some time subsequently. When Ah Keet found the door looked against him he proceeded to smash it in, and in a short time he had smashed a portion of the middle in. Sergeant Kelly then saw him with an American axe in his hands smashing away at the door. Another minute and it would have yielded. At this

critical moment the woman in the bed woke up. The sergeant fired a shot from the revolver through the window to frighten his assailant and alarm the neighbours. It had no effect on Ah Keet, however, for he ceased not in his efforts to break in the door. The woman now rushed towards the door, evidently to open it, and there was no alternative for the sergeant but to disable Ah Keet. He fired at him, aiming low. At that moment the woman rushed to the door and opened it, and Sergeant Kelly, not knowing the effect of his shot, escaped through the window and out into the street, where a crowd of white men were standing.

Entering the house again by the front door it was found that the shot had taken effect on the Chinaman, entering his body about the groin. He was quite disabled for further immediate mischief. Mr. Olsen's buggy was obtained, and the wounded man driven into town, where he was attended to by Dr. Thomas, who extracted the bullet from the back of the thigh. It is probable he is not seriously injured. He was removed to the hospital, where a police constable has since been in charge of him. The woman was also arrested and lodged in the lockup.

For those of you who have Australian antecedents and Trove is new to you, I hope you have success in finding your families' stories. The link is: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>.

Kay is studying the surname Unthank and can be contacted at: kay.page@one-name.org. Kay's Members' website project website can be found at: unthank.one-name.net.

Was John Alefounder who is buried in Davington, Kent the same John that was baptised in Nayland, Essex in 1761?

Alefounder schoolmasters of Nayland, Suffolk and Faversham, Kent

In his Editorial (Bazzoni, J-M (2025) JOONS 15(5), p3) our editor asked whether my ancestor John Alefounder, buried in Davington, was the same John as was baptised in Nayland, Essex, in 1761. I can now say that he was not, and this is why.

Thomas Alefounder, schoolmaster and mapmaker, married Anne Taylor 28 June 1744, St Mary at the Walls, Colchester, Essex. They had ten children:

- Mary, bapised 17 January 1744 Boxted, Essex, who married Thomas Williams on 27 September 1768 Nayland, Suffolk (Nayland and Boxted are very close, either side of the River Stour)
- Ann baptised 19 August 1749 Boxted
- Susan(nah) baptised 11 February 1750, buried 2 February 1752 Boxted
- twins, Lucretia & Lucy baptised 15 January 1752 Boxted, Lucretia buried 12 March 1752 Boxted, Lucy married Isaac Gosling 26 January 1786 Nayland
- Elizabeth baptised 30 May 1753 Boxted, married John Pannel 28 June 1794 Nayland
- Thomas baptised 13 November 1754 Nayland, mapmaker
- Sarah baptised 24 August 1758 Nayland
- John baptised 12 March 1761 Nayland
- Susanna baptised 18 December 1762, buried 26 December 1762 Nayland.

The point to note here is that there is nothing to suggest that the baptism of John was at any time other than soon after birth, as was usual.

I now consider my own 5x great-grandparents, John Alefounder (buried 3 January 1798 Davington, Kent) and Mary White (buried 25 April 1804 Davington). I have found their marriage:

1 November 1774 Oare (Davington is part of Faversham, Oare is about a mile north of Davington). At this time John Alefounder of Nayland would have been aged 13 or 14, and so I conclude that he is not the same person.

John and Mary's son Daniel, my 4x great-grandfather, was indeed a schoolmaster, but he was at first (in 1795), apprenticed to Robert Lewis, a cordwainer. He appears not to have been happy about this as according to an advertisement in the *Kentish Gazette*, he absconded in 1798. After he married, he is noted at the baptism of his children as a schoolmaster in 1814, 1817 and 1827, and as a shoemaker in 1820 and 1822, and was said to be a schoolmaster in the *Kentish Gazette* when he died in 1829. So, although he appears to have been mainly a schoolmaster, I think being apprenticed to a cordwainer and sometimes working as a shoemaker weakens any possible continuity of occupation from a forefather.

I have not found the baptism of my ancestor John Alefounder and do not know of any likely parents. As for Mary White, his wife and my 5x great-grandmother, I have one of her lines back to Herebertus filius Hereberti dicti Finch (Herbert son of Herbert called Finch) born about 1294, but that is another story.

Peter Alefounder.



The church of St. Peter, Oare, Kent viewed from Church Road across the garden of Pheasant Farm (courtesy of Pam Fray @ Wikimedia Commons).

John Preece

The Life of a Petty Criminal

by Ian Preece (1100)

John Preece was born in Birmingham in 1843, his father having moved to the area from Herefordshire. On the 9 July 1860, he received his first sentences for housebreaking at Birmingham Sessions, and set the ball rolling on an astonishing period of almost 50 years, in which he received 21 separate sentences amounting to over 69 years imprisonment (some were served concurrently!). He used aliases, and even found time to get married. His story reflects a situation where he would be jailed, released, struggle to make ends meet and so re-offend, and is then jailed again. You suspect that, had he been offending earlier in the 19th century, he would have found himself transported to Australia, and who knows that may have been beneficial to him and given him a new start. Read on, for family background, sentencing details and extracts from newspapers covering a most extraordinary life.

Family Roots in Herefordshire and a move to Birmingham

John's grandparents were from Herefordshire. His grandfather, Richard, married Ann Thomas in Canon Pyon on 14 December 1814. Richard is likely to be the son of John and Ann Preece, born around 1792, in Wellington. Richard and Ann had two daughters, Mary, baptised at Wellington on 11 February 1816, and Elizabeth, also baptised at Wellington, on 7 July 1821. In between, they had a son, John (father of John, the subject of this article), who was baptised at Wellington on 14 February 1819. The family lived at Cuckold's Row at this time, where Ann died in 1822, and Richard went on to marry again in 1824 to Maria Maunsell. They had several children, but by 1841 Maria had died and Richard had married again, and was living in Wellington with his new wife Eliza, Richard's son William (aged 10), and his father John, who is now 75.

Richard's son John, father of the subject of the story, is not at home in 1841, and it hasn't yet been possible to pinpoint his whereabouts. What isn't in doubt is that in 1842, he pops up in Birmingham, specifically the Yardley area of the city, and on 2 October he marries Emma Hopkins. Both give Yardley as their address, and at this point John says he is a cooper. John junior was born on 26 March 1843, the family are now at 2 Court, Marshall Street in Birmingham, and again John senior gives his occupation as a cooper.

By 1851, John and Emma, together with sons John (now aged 7), and William, are living with Emma's parents and sister Fanny.

A life of Crime begins ...

In May 1860, John found himself in trouble for the first time (at least as far as we know). He had broken into some houses, but had been discovered by the son of one of the house owners, and although he escaped at first, he was quickly caught. Interestingly, in the report of his appearance at the Sessions in Birmingham, it states that he was believed

to have even stolen from his parents, having then run away from home.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette, 7 May 1860

Tuesday ... A youth named John Preece, who had formerly been convicted of felony, was charged with burglary, and stealing a suit of clothes, value £2 5s, from the house of Joseph Jinks, Blucher Street. The prisoner entered the house during the absence of the family, and was discovered by the prosecutor on his return, coming down the stairs with the clothes in question. Several keys were found in his possession. He was remanded in order that the case might be completed.

Wednesday ... John Preece was brought up on remand, charged with burglary, which he had effected by means of false keys, a regular set of which were found upon him. When called upon for his defence, the prisoner commenced crying, and asked to be forgiven, but Mr Kynnersley said that this could not be listened to, and the prisoner was committed for trial. It was also proved that he had entered the house of Mr Blackhurst in Tennant Street, in a similar manner, and was found by the prosecutor's son in the act of rifling his sisters work-box. Young Blackhurst seized the prisoner, who effected his escape after a struggle. He was afterwards, however, apprehended by Detective Edwards. Mr Blackhurst said the prisoner had stolen a number of silver coins of the republic of Chili, but they could not be found, as the prisoner had a accomplice. It further appeared that Preece had run away from his parents, after robbing them of a sum of money.

Following his appearances at the Sessions, he was found guilty of both charges of housebreaking, and was sentenced to 12 calendar months imprisonment for each case, to be served concurrently.

Unless he was released early, he would be in prison at the time of the 1861 census - it has not yet been possible to locate him. His parents John and Emma were living in Birmingham, at Court House 3 on William Street, where John was listed as a Gun Implement maker. Sadly, their other son Frederick had died in 1959, his burial being at Birmingham St Thomas's on 23 February 1859.

After his first prison sentence, he seems to have managed to stay away from crime - or at least wasn't caught - for over a year, something that became increasingly rare in future years, as we will see. However, he had now started going under aliases, and in 1862 he is arrested again for housebreaking, under the name of John Dawson, on this occasion he had stolen 7 sheets.

He was found guilty, and sentenced to three months imprisonment.

This was the start of a regular cycle of imprisonment - release - conviction. Having served his 3 months imprisonment, he was again caught housebreaking in March 1863 (this time under the name of John Priest), and on 30 March received his first “severe” punishment - 3 years penal servitude.

If you look at the dates of the sentencing above (1863) and the report of his next appearance at the Sessions (1867), you can see it is four years, meaning he managed to stay out of trouble (or at least once again not get caught) for much of a twelve-month period.

Remarkably, in the time between being released and charged again, he got married! On 19 November 1866, at Hockley (All Saints), he married Emma Palmer. He gave his age as 23, and his occupation as ‘Painter’, both of their addresses being Carver Street, on the edge of the present-day Jewellery Quarter. His father John is once again named as a Gun Implement maker. Of course the earlier newspaper reported that John junior had fled the family having robbed them, and so unsurprisingly the witnesses to the wedding were both from Emma’s family.

Perhaps also unsurprisingly, I can’t locate any children of the marriage, the very fact that John was in prison for much of the time suggesting it would perhaps be very likely to be so!

As is shown in the press extract, John was once again at the Sessions in 1867, charged with housebreaking, and this time the severity of his sentence increased to 7 years penal servitude, in fact he received the sentence for both offences but they were to be served concurrently.

The notes on his transfer from court to Chatham prison are helpful - he is described as healthy and behaviour was said to be good, although in the column marked “Substance of Gaolers Report of Character” it says “Indifferent”!

Birmingham Journal April 20 1867

HOUSEBREAKING - John Preece (24), opposite the Highland Laddie, Lionel Street, was charged with breaking into the dwelling house of Mrs M Beaumont, Bracebridge Street, on the 3rd inst., and stealing therefrom a pair of sheets and other articles, and also with illegally pledging the same. The prosecutrix said that she left her house on the evening of the 2nd of April quite safe, and on the evening of the 3rd she sent a girl for something. The girl returned, saying witness's house had been broken into. Witness then went and found a pair of sheets and several other articles missing. The doors of the house had been unlocked, and were closed. Thomas Green, 113 Summer Lane, said the prisoner came to his shop on the 3rd April, and pledged the things in the name of “John Smith”. Witness asked him why Mrs Smith did not come herself, to which he replied that “she was very ill, and not expected to live”. The prisoner acknowledged his guilt and was committed to the Sessions. There was also another charge against the prisoner of breaking into the house of Mrs Sarah Brittain, 178 Great Russel Street, on the 16th instant, and stealing therefrom three mantles, and several other articles. Entrance was effected by means of skeleton keys. Prosecutrix said she locked her house door and went into the next door neighbours for a short time. When she returned home she did not notice anything particular, but when she was going to bed she missed the mantles and several other articles. Mr Thomas Green, pawnbroker, Summer Lane, said the prisoner brought the articles produced to his shop on Tuesday, for the purpose of pledging them. As soon as the prisoner came in witness went and bolted the door, and a policeman was sent for, and he was given into custody. The prisoner, who had been convicted three times previously for similar offences, was committed to the Sessions on this charge also.

Having been jailed in 1867, the 1871 Census finds John in prison again - this time he is being held at Chatham (not his last visit to this particular place). He is aged 27 according to the records, a Gun Implement maker born in Birmingham. The occupation given is interesting, in that it is his father’s occupation, and since he had left his family home in 1860 under something of a cloud. He is usually described as a fitter in many of the other criminal records.

Having been jailed for 7 years, he is released and is soon back in court almost 7 years to the day of his previous conviction.

Once again he faces two charges of housebreaking and receives two concurrent 7 year sentences of penal servitude, although there were a number of other cases which were not heard by the court on this occasion.

At this point he is being (largely) convicted under his own name, but this will start to change once this sentence has been served.

WHOLESALE HOUSEBREAKING IN BIRMINGHAM

At the Aston Petty Sessions yesterday, before Messrs. T Ryland, J Smallwood and E Boughton, John Preece ticket-of-leave man, late of Summer Lane, was charged with breaking into the dwelling house of James Burr, at Upper Thomas Street, Aston, on the 1st of June, and also with entering the dwelling house of Stephen Brandon, New John Street, also on the 1st inst. and stealing a watch and chain. There were several other charges of housebreaking against him, but only two were heard. About nine o'clock on the morning of the 1st of June, prisoner opened the door of Mr Burr's house with a false key, and entered the front room. He, however, found it was occupied by Mrs Burr, and he decamped. Information was given to the Police, and he was apprehended by Police sergeant Norris, in Park Road, the same evening. Five keys were found in his possession, and also a watch. Police sergeant Norris having received information that a robbery had been committed in New John Street West, and that a watch had been stolen, suspected that the prisoner was the thief, and upon enquiries his suspicions were confirmed. During the absence of Mrs Brandon from the house, prisoner had that morning unlocked the door with a false key, and, on prosecutrix's return, also found him concealed behind the door in her bedroom, and her husband's watch and chain and other articles were missing. She dragged him out of the room downstairs, where she and the prisoner had a desperate struggle, which resulted in the latter making his escape. Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the ensuing Warwick Quarter Sessions

It seems to be a regular occurrence that John was released early. As mentioned elsewhere in these pages, he behaved himself when in prison, and so received favourable treatment, but sadly he didn’t repay the authorities!

Such a case can be seen in 1880 - let out over a year ahead of the end of his 1874 sentence of 7 years, he transgressed, and, under the alias of John Dawson, is back at Birmingham Sessions in June, following more housebreaking.

The article notes that it is highlighted in court that he is a persistent offender, and that he is out of prison early, and he is sentenced to 5 further years of penal servitude, and police supervision once released.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28 June 1880

John Dawson (36), fitter, pleaded guilty to having, on the 9th April, broken into the dwelling house of Francis Wall, and stolen therefrom a purse, a coat, and 35s. The Recorder remarked that since 1860 prisoner had received sentences amounting to seventeen years penal servitude, and in addition two terms of twelve months imprisonment, and was at present out upon a ticket-of-leave. He would be sent again to penal servitude for five years, with three years supervision.

The 1881 Census shows that John was at Portsea Prison in 1881 (near Portsmouth). 37 years old, he gives his marital status as Married, although I have not yet located his wife Emma in this or other census.

His parents John (now aged 62) and Emma (also 62) are still in Summer Lane, in Birmingham, and John senior is still a Gun Implement maker.

Five years and more have now passed since his 1880 sentencing, but October 1885 shows him back at Birmingham Sessions, caught stealing clothes from a house again.

The article in the newspaper is less than glowing in its description of Peter/John - as the Birmingham Daily Mail also remarked he had now spent half of his life in penal servitude. This time he received a lesser sentence than the previous three, only 16 months imprisonment and further police supervision (which it should be said seems to be doing little to help him!).

Birmingham Daily Mail October 16 1885

"Forced back into evil courses" is too often a truthful summary of the career of the man or woman who has once received the prison brand. Despite all our benevolent and reforming agencies, and despite the fact that the theory, "once a thief always a thief", is by no means so universally respected as it used to be, it is still, no doubt, dreadfully difficult for a criminal anxious to do right to break completely with his past and to get an honest livelihood. The case of the returned convict, Peter Morris, who was sentenced to sixteen months imprisonment and two years police supervision at the Quarter Sessions yesterday, illustrates this great social difficulty on two sides. Judging from the lies he told as to his experience at Messrs. Kynochs, Morris is evidently not a man one would care to go far out of the way to assist. His whole conduct, in fact, seems to justify the caution which in nine cases out of ten makes a "previous conviction" a bar to employment. At the same time, there may be a good deal in his plea that he has never had a "chance to reform". If an opportunity of getting an honest living had been placed in his way, before 20 years of gaol life inured him to crime, he might now be a respectable member of society, instead of an habitual and confirmed thief.

1887 is the first time a judge has offered specific advice to John - he found himself in Court after further housebreaking, and explained that he was unable to work and therefore stole to allow him to eat.

The judge gave him a chance on this occasion, and instead of sending him back for a further long spell of penal servitude, he jailed him for 12 months, albeit with hard labour, and told him to apply to the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society when he came out in order to gain help in making a fresh start.

It wasn't the last time that the Society are mentioned in connection with John, and the ongoing story of his life perhaps suggests the level of success in any help offered to him!

Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser & Leamington Gazette April 9 1887

A CASE FOR THE DISCHARGED PRISONERS AID SOCIETY

Peter Morris, 46, fitter, pleaded guilty to breaking and entering the dwelling house of George Handley, at Aston, and stealing a timepiece. Prisoner told the court that having been convicted before he could not get anyone to employ him, and was driven to do what he did through want. The Chairman said he had six times before been convicted of housebreaking, and the Court were in doubt as to whether the ought not now to send him back to penal servitude. He would have another chance. The sentence would be twelve months hard labour and three years police supervision. He advised him when he came out of gaol at the expiration of his punishment to apply to the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society, to see if something could be done to give him another start in life elsewhere.

Having been given the relatively lenient sentence of only twelve months in his previous case, John was released at Easter in 1888, and in no time at all he was once again in front of the court at the Sessions in May. The newspaper article on the case referred to his "dislike for freedom", and indeed during this case he corrected evidence being given by the prosecutor, in effect strengthening the case against him.

As you will see from the text, it does seem that he had heard that others may have been thought guilty whilst he was on remand, and he was keen to exonerate others and take the blame, such as his 'liking' for prison. He admitted that he had committed various crimes, but was only given two charges for housebreaking on this occasion, and was found guilty, under one of his aliases - John Dawson. Once again, he received two twelve-month sentences, to be served concurrently, and a further 3 years police supervision once released.

Shortly after sentencing, John's mother Emma died. She was now aged 70, and died in the Birmingham Workhouse Infirmary (her husband John is still alive). Of course, long ago John was said to have run away from home after stealing from his parents, so you do have to wonder if indeed he knew about the death, or indeed where his parents were.

Birmingham Daily Mail May 11 1888

AN EXTRAORDINARY CRIMINAL

Several charges of housebreaking were preferred against John Dawson alias Peter Morris (49), whose punishments for various offences collectively amounted to nearly 30 years imprisonment. Prisoner, ever since his first introduction to the inside of a prison, has shown a persistent dislike for freedom, and when liberated is like a fish out of water, and a few weeks seldom intervene the completion of one sentence and the passing of another. He finished twelve months just after last Easter, and came to Birmingham, where he at once renewed his thieving tricks, and was arrested on Thursday last by Detective Clifton. He got into the house of Benjamin Brain, glass cutter, Prescott Street, on the 2nd, and carried off a suit of clothes and three shirts. He stole a quantity of wearing apparel from the abode of Mr Johnson, engine driver, 13 Montague Street, on the 19th ult., and he also committed thefts from houses in Nechells and Bracebridge Street. When captured he was charged with stealing the suit and two shirts from the first named prosecutor. "It is a mistake", he observed, "there were three shirts". (Laughter in Court). Again, in the Court, he exhibited a desire to make the case against himself as strong as possible. The officer Clifton was in the box, and inadvertently overlooked some of the things which were found in the prisoners possession. It did not escape the notice of the accused, who coolly enquired "what did you find in my coat pocket at the station?". The reminder had the desired effect. Clifton at once produced a bunch of skeleton keys, which he had taken from the accused. Of course the keys would be sure to have been produced sooner or later, but the care the prisoner took to have the circumstances brought under the notice of the Court without delay struck everyone as a little remarkable. He admitted to the detective what he had done with the whole of his illgotten gains, and enabled him to recover the bulk of them from the various pawnbrokers and dealers with whom they had been lodged. Prisoner made no answer to the charge, but he explained to the bench that he had been pretty busy within the past month. While under remain he had been led to understand that suspicion had lighted on a number of working men, but he desired to exonerate them from all blame by acknowledging his guilt. Alone he did them, and could not bear to think that someone else was being judged for them. Prisoner was committed to the Sessions.

In August 1889, John was out of prison again, and this time something strange happened - he was arrested and put on trial in Manchester! He was charged with attempting to steal a watch, having reverted to using his "Peter Morris" alias.

I haven't been able to locate a newspaper report for this appearance at Manchester Sessions, but I will state the possibility that he did in fact try to seek help, as suggested by the court in 1887, when he was released. Maybe part of the help was to relocate north, I cannot yet be sure, but in any event, whatever the reason for his presence in Manchester that May he was caught, and was sentenced to 15 months hard labour. This seems to be his sole offence away from the Birmingham area, for reasons that we may well never know. 1891 finds John back in Birmingham. If the reason for him being in Manchester was an attempt at a new start - it failed, for here he is back at the Sessions for the 10th time in his life.

On this occasion he has again been stealing clothes and pawning them, a pattern that is seen time after time, and does indeed fit with his life where he is in desperate need of money and goes back to the way of life he knows.

It is assumed that John's wife Emma is still in Birmingham at this time. I have been unable to locate her in the census from 1871 onwards. As we will see later, in both 1901 and 1911, John is described as a widower.

As the article shows, after some slightly less lenient sentences for recent offences, he was again sent to penal servitude, and this time for five years.

In September 1892, his father John died, following his mother's death four years earlier. Like Emma, John died in the Birmingham Workhouse Infirmary - he was 74.

Birmingham Daily Mail January 9 1891

AN ARTFUL HOUSEBREAKER

John Dawson, alias Morris, alias Priest (51), fitter, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling house of William Kinneary, on the 16th December last, and stealing two pairs of trousers and two waistcoats. Mr Cholmondley prosecuted. The prosecutor lives at 43 Guildford Street, and on the date named his house was broken into. On the same day the clothing was pawned at the shop of Mr Henry Outran, Great Russell Street, by the prisoner. Two days later the accused was arrested by Detective Sergeant Daniels. The defence set up was that the prisoner did not commit the robbery. He sent a letter to Detective Daniels, saying he saw two men carrying stolen property, and trying to pawn them at different shops. The property was the coats and waistcoats. Prisoner also stated that Daniels had arrested him out of spite, because he would not act in the capacity of a detectives tool. Daniels denied this, and said he had given the prisoner money because he said he was poverty-stricken. The Assistant Barrister said the offence had been aggravated by the defence. Superintendent Black said that the prisoner had, for housebreaking, served three terms of penal servitude and other minor sentences. Since he had been in Birmingham he had been giving information to the police of robberies which he himself had committed. The accused was sent back to penal servitude for five years.

Following his imprisonment in 1891 for five years, he was released from Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight on 14 December 1894, to the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society.

Despite this, he soon re-offended and was arrested in 1895. Going under his alias of John Dawson, he was brought up at Stafford Assizes, and pleaded guilty to charges relating to three different properties. He did complain to the Judge that the Police didn't allow him to work, and so he had little choice but to take the action he did, but the judge had little sympathy, and jailed him again, this time the sentence being six years penal servitude.

Staffordshire Chronicle August 3 1895

John Dawson (55), fitter, had pleaded guilty to burglary and theft from three different houses in Handsworth and Aston. When asked if he had anything to say why judgement should not be passed upon him, prisoner complained that the police had deprived him of situations when he was gaining an honest livelihood. They would not allow him to work, and what was he to do? The Judge : Not commit burglaries, for that is dangerous. Continuing, prisoner said the police took every advantage of him. When he got a situation they always went to make enquiries, and drove him away. The Judge read a long list of previous convictions, in respect to one of which he was sent to penal servitude by the Recorder of Birmingham, and he was now condemned to undergo six years penal servitude.

John was released - still under his Dawson alias - one year and nine months from the end of his sentence received in 1895, but almost instantly was arrested again for housebreaking.

The judge mentioned the vast amount of time he had spent imprisoned, and sent him back to jail for the remainder of his earlier sentence, along with a new three month term to be served concurrently.

He was sent to Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight, where he can be found in the 1901 Census, giving his age as 60 and his marital status as Widower. At this time his occupation is given as Engine Fitter, this is how he was generally described,

The Kenilworth Advertiser March 16 1901

33 YEARS IN PENAL SERVITUDE

John Dawson, 62, fitter, was convicted of breaking into two dwelling houses at Aston Manor, on the 9th and 14th January respectively, and stealing from each a quantity of clothing.

His Lordship stated that the prisoner had passed 33 years of his life in penal servitude, and 23 years of this period was for crimes similar to that of which he was convicted that day. He had one year and 276 days of his last sentence to serve, and the Judge ordered him to be imprisoned for that time, a sentence of three months to run concurrently.

although exactly how much time in his life was spent as a "fitter" is open for discussion!

Despite being jailed for the remainder of his sentence, John did find himself released early the following year, (in July 1902), to the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society once again, but any help offered was either not accepted or wasted, and December 1902 finds him at Warwick Assizes, facing more charges of housebreaking in Aston.

The details shown in the article give us an insight into what possibly happened on various occasions after John had left prison ; it is clear that the police officer, who knew John from previous convictions, had tried to help him, and had even got him a job. However, he lasted just over two months before leaving, and returning to his old ways. We can never know what caused him to leave the job, but it is interesting to see that help was offered.

Kenilworth Advertiser, 13 December 1902

John Dawson, 63, fitter, was indicted for breaking into two dwellings in the parish of Aston Manor, and stealing a number of articles, the goods of Mr James Gray in one case, and of Mrs Elizabeth Woods in the other.

Prisoner pleaded guilty

Detective Inspector Gregory, in answer to his Lordship, said he had known prisoner for many year, but could not say anything in his favour. He had found prisoner, on leaving prison in July last, a situation at 24s. a week, but he left it at the end of September and resumed his old habits.

His Lordship : What kind of position was it?

Detective Inspector Gregory : That of a labourer at the electric works; he had 24s. a week and as much overtime as he liked.

His Lordship said this was one of those cases which made one despair of ever reclaiming a man. There were 13 convictions against prisoner. It was said that a prisoner could not get a chance of living an honest life, but in this case the prisoner had been put into the position of earning 24s. a week and living an honest life. He would be sent to penal servitude for five years.

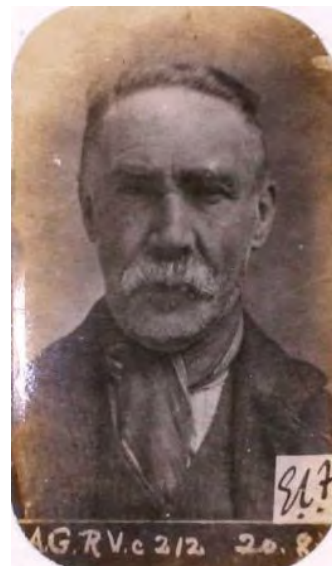
As ever, it seemed John behaved very well in prison and was released early. but as usual it wasn't long before he was in trouble again.

He had been discharged on 3 January 1907, supposedly into the care of the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society once again, but just over one month later he was back at Birmingham Police Court, having broken into a house and stolen various clothes and material.

He received a sentence of only 18 months, but one of hard labour, which in his advancing years (he is now in his sixties) must have been tough.

Some prison records have survived where descriptions of prisoners are given - John is usually described as being around 5' 3" tall, with dark brown hair and brown (or hazel) eyes. He is often said to have a "deformed" left wrist, but with no further information about how that may have been caused.

The image of him is courtesy of Ancestry, and shows John



in his prison photo in 1909 - I have been unable to locate any earlier photos of him despite his many sentences!

18 months later, John is released, but in a matter of weeks he has returned to his old ways.

As reported by the newspaper below, he told the police officer that he had been out in the rain all night, and indeed hadn't eaten for over a day, and so was attempting to steal in order to provide money for food.

The court heard of his now very lengthy string of previous convictions, and the huge amount of time he had spent in prison during his lifetime, and, despite his age, he received yet another 12 months of hard labour.

Birmingham Daily Mail, 16 July 1909

A BAD RECORD

At Aston Police Court, this morning, John Dawson, alias Preece, Norris and Priest, no fixed abode, was charged with loitering in Clifford Street, Aston, with intent to commit a felony.

Police Constable Sweeney gave evidence in support of the charge.

At the police station prisoner told Inspector Wright that he had been out in the rain all the previous night and had had nothing to eat for 32 hours. He said he must do something; he could not starve. The Inspector gave the man some food, and he was locked up.

Deputy Chief Constable Hannah said the prisoner, who was 70 years of age, had been charged with housebreaking seventeen times, and his added sentences amounted to 46 years and 8 months, whilst if other sentences were included which ran concurrently, they would bring the total up to 66 years and 8 months.

The magistrates now dealt with the prisoner under the prevention of Crimes Act, and sent him to gaol for twelve months with hard labour.

As it turned out, this was John's final time in prison. The 1911 census finds him at the Aston Union Workhouse, on Union Road in the Erdington area of Birmingham - he is now 72, a widower, described as formerly a smith and a fitter.

Two years later, John is now in Birmingham Workhouse Infirmary, and passes away on 5 October 1913, brought on by pneumonia and heart failure. His age is given as 74 (although this is probably incorrect).

This brings down the curtain on a remarkable life - 21 separate charges, with many other offences not included in the charges, a number of aliases used, and a total of 48 years imprisonment all after the age of 17, indeed sentencing totalled 69 years if you add in the concurrent verdicts. A summary of his Court and Sessions appearances: -

- 12 months, Birmingham Sessions, 9 July 1860 (housebreaking), as John Preece
- 12 months, Birmingham Sessions, 9 July 1860 (housebreaking), as John Preece (Concurrent)

- 3 months, Birmingham Sessions, 10 October 1862 (stealing 7 sheets), as John Dawson
- 3 years Penal Servitude, Birmingham Sessions, 30 March 1863 (housebreaking), as John Priest
- 7 years Penal Servitude, Birmingham Sessions, 24 June 1867 (housebreaking), as John Preece
- 7 years Penal Servitude, Birmingham Sessions, 24 June 1867 (housebreaking), as John Preece (Concurrent)
- 7 years Penal Servitude, Warwick Sessions, 30 June 1874 (housebreaking), as John Preece
- 7 years Penal Servitude, Warwick Sessions, 30 June 1874 (housebreaking), as John Preece (Concurrent)
- 5 years Penal Servitude and 3 years Police Supervision, Birmingham Sessions, 26 June 1880 (housebreaking), as John Dawson
- 16 months, and 2 years Police Supervision, Birmingham Sessions, 14 October 1885 (housebreaking), as Peter Norris
- 12 months, and 3 years Police Supervision, Warwick Sessions, 5 April 1887 (housebreaking), as Peter Norris
- 12 months, and 3 years Police Supervision, Birmingham Sessions, 25 June 1888 (housebreaking), as John Dawson
- 12 months, and 3 years Police Supervision, Birmingham Sessions, 25 June 1888 (housebreaking), as John Dawson (Concurrent)
- 15 months, Manchester Sessions, 1 August 1889 (attempting to steal a watch), as Peter Norris
- 5 years Penal Servitude, Birmingham Sessions, 9 January 1891 (housebreaking), as John Dawson
- 6 years Penal Servitude, Stafford Assizes, 22 July 1895 (housebreaking), as John Dawson
- 3 months, Warwick Assizes, 7 March 1901 (housebreaking), as John Dawson (Concurrent with unexpired sentence of Penal Servitude)
- 5 years Penal Servitude, Warwick Assizes, 5 December 1902 (housebreaking), as John Dawson
- 5 years Penal Servitude, Warwick Assizes, 5 December 1902 (housebreaking), as John Dawson (Concurrent)
- 18 calendar months hard labour, Birmingham, 12 February 1907 (housebreaking), as John Preece
- 12 months hard labour, Birmingham, 16 July 1909 (intent to commit a felony), as John Dawson.

Ian is studying the surname Preece with the variants Prease, Prees, and Preese and he can be contacted at: ian.preece@one-name.org.

Ian's members' registered website project can be found at: www.preecefamilyhistory.co.uk and his DNA Project website at: www.familytreedna.com/public/Preece.



Pentonville Prison Treadmill, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

The Mystery of Henry Rendell

Will the Real One Please Stand Up?

by Jeanette Martin (9222)

Introduction

Genealogical research often presents puzzles, but few are as compelling as uncovering the identity of Henry Rendell (1859-1928), Martin Parnell's biological 2nd great-grandfather. What seemed like a straightforward ancestry trail quickly turned into a fascinating conundrum involving three individuals named Henry Rendell, all born in 1859 in Somerset, England.

Hints on platforms like Ancestry, Findmypast and MyHeritage suggested a connection to a Henry Rendall of West Coker, Somerset. However, records revealed that the Henry who later settled in Wales with his wife, Louisa Dear, was born in Haselbury Plucknett, Somerset. This discrepancy spurred a deeper investigation to determine the correct Henry.

The research identified three potential candidates:

1. Henry [1]: Born September 17, 1859, to William and Eunice Rendell in West Coker.
2. Henry [2]: Born September 24, 1859, to Mary Rendell (unmarried) in West Coker.
3. Henry [3]: Born February 13, 1859, to Mary Anne Rendell (unmarried) in Haselbury Plucknett.

The Quest for the Truth

To solve the mystery, it was necessary to meticulously reconstruct the lives of these three Henrys. Through analysing birth, baptism, marriage, and census records and by tracing their families and movements.

The Three Henrys

Henry [1]: The West Coker Native

Born to William and Eunice Rendell, Henry [1] was well-documented in West Coker throughout his life. Baptised in 1862, he lived with his parents until adulthood. In 1884, he married Amelia Rendell, and they had a son, Henry Charles, in 1885. Tragically, Amelia died two years later.

Census records from 1861 to 1921 show Henry [1] living and working in West Coker, employed as a twine finisher and rope maker. Despite his well-documented life, no evidence links him to Wales or Louisa Dear.

Henry [2]: The Illegitimate Son

Henry [2], born to Mary Rendell in West Coker, remains elusive. Baptised in 1860, he likely lived with his mother until her marriage to Emanuel Giles in 1866. There is a lack of a census for 1871 but on the 1881 Census Henry is living with his mother who is now a widow. Beyond this, records of Henry [2] are scarce.

The lack of documentation and absence of connections to Wales or Louisa Dear make it unlikely that Henry [2] is Martin Parnell's ancestor.

Henry [3]: The Haselbury Plucknett Mystery

Henry [3], born illegitimate to Mary Anne Rendell in Haselbury Plucknett, proved to be the most promising candidate. Baptised in 1859, he grew up in Haselbury Plucknett, Somerset from information in the 1861 and 1871 Census before enlisting in the military in 1876. His service record with the 36th Brigade revealed critical details:

- Henry's birthplace matched the family records.
- His service took him to Cardiff, where he likely met and married Louisa Dear in 1885.
- The record listed his mother, Mary Anne, and his siblings, corroborating census data.

Challenges in the Search

The investigation faced numerous obstacles, including:

- **Surname Variations:** The Rendell name appeared as Rendall, Randell, Raindle, and more across records.
- **Missing Census Data:** Gaps in census records hindered the ability to trace Henry [2].
- **Conflicting Birthplaces:** Records for Henry [3] sometimes listed different locations, adding confusion.

The Breakthrough

The definitive clue came from Henry [3]'s military service record. Not only did it confirm his journey from Haselbury Plucknett to Cardiff, but it also aligned his personal details with those of the Henry who married Louisa Dear.

Conclusion

After untangling a web of records, the mystery was solved: Henry [3], born February 13, 1859, in Haselbury Plucknett, was Martin Parnell's biological 2nd great-grandfather.

This case highlights the challenges and triumphs of genealogical research. By combining traditional methods with modern tools like DNA analysis, even the most complex family mysteries can be unraveled. For anyone tracing their roots, the journey may be long, but the rewards are worth it.

Jeanette has no surname registered and can be contacted at: jeanette.martin@one-name.org.



Corrs

Bell-founders of Wiltshire

by Doreen Fawcett (6560)



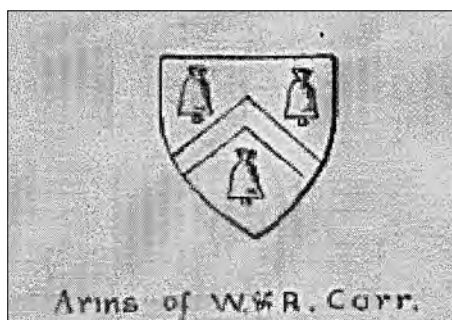
St Michael's Church and Green, Aldbourne, Wiltshire.

Wiltshire was once a hub of bell-founding in the 17th and 18th century. The village of Aldbourne features regularly in this period and the Corr family was quite prominent there. Today, nothing really remains in the village to remember either the Bell-Founding industry or the Corr family. The church in Aldbourne is named St Michael's but it possesses a bell tower that was known as St Mary Magdalane. The Corr family cast over 130 bells between 1694 and 1743, which were sold all over the south of England.

Supplies of copper, tin and zinc were readily available in the West Country of England and used in the manufacture of horse brasses and sheep bells. With the religious fervour of the mid-17th century there was a demand for church bells which the Corrs and their successors were able to supply.

William Corr, a gunsmith in Aldbourne in his will of 1669, made a legacy to Oliver Corr, his son, of the following equipment '2 new forge bellows, a cast iron anvil, a great vice, and a pistol belonging to a Staff gun'.

Oliver Corr was churchwarden of St Michael/St Mary Magdalane church Aldbourne in 1685 and two of the Corr bells cast there were inscribed with the name of Cor. In 1696 the Corrs cast a bell for the tower of St Mary's Church, Devizes which has a shield showing the William & Robert Corr mark.



Corr logo used on bells.



The Corrs were also notable for making musical handbells (or handlebells) used in peal playing as well as shop doorbells and this became their claim to fame. The handbells always had the logo of a bird -possibly a dabchick as well as founders initials.

The Corr family followed a traditional naming pattern for their children and first names such as Oliver, Robert, William and John are repeated in each generation. The Church bells were always annotated as Cor but written records show Corr. There were also variants such as Corre and Curr.

Church bells seem to have a limited life span, many cracking and having to be re-cast or replaced completely. Bells were cast in Aldbourne in 1686 but had to be re-cast again by William & Robert Corr in 1696. William also re-cast another bell in 1701. One of the bells in Devizes is inscribed 'By the skill of Wm & Rbt Corr-here I sound'.

One of the Aldbourne bells also had the following inscription:

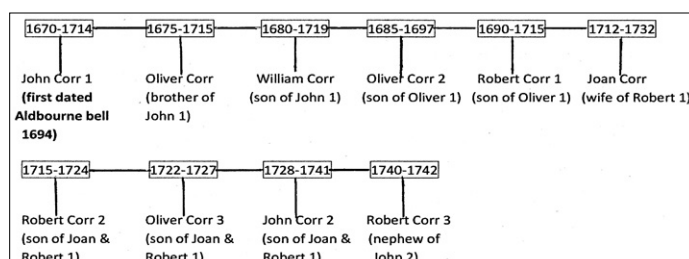
Ex generosorum donis a Gulielmo Jackson Vicario collectis et arte Gulielmi et Roberti Corr hic sono. 1709.

'Generously donated by William Jackson-Vicar designed by William & Robert Corr -Here is the sound 1709'. Loosely translated by me, my apologies to Latin scholars.

Oliver Corr's wife Elizabeth continued the family business after the death of her husband in 1715 as did their son Robert who died before 1716. The Corrs appear to die quite young and there was a Private Act of Parliament to sort out inheritance issues, 12 Geo II, Chapter 26, unfortunately no document seems to be available now.

Oliver Corr - Bell-founder, settled some property in 1715, on his son Robert and his future wife Joan Longman. Joan had a marriage portion of £200, now worth over £31,000 today. Joan Longman was a business partner of Robert Corr 1 and after his death took her sons Oliver & Robert 2 into the business as well. After she died in 1723 family quarrels over wills and lands resulted in the downfall of the business for the Corrs.

William & Robert Corr cast bells from 1696-1713, John Corr also casting bells in 1750 and subsequently the family business was taken over by Robert Wells and there was intermarriage between the two families.



ALDBOURNE, WILTS.		
Oliver Corr	. . . . .	1698
William Corr	}	1696—1713
Robert Corr		
John Corr	. . . . .	1750
Edward Read	. . . . .	1751
Robert Wells	. . . . .	1764—1793
James Wells	. . . . .	1800—1825

Bells were also supplied to at least 12 other churches in the county of Wiltshire. Two bells were cast for the parish of Maningford's Abbot in 1706. In 1706 a bell was cast for Rowde parish. For the parish of Shalbourne a bell was cast by the Corrs in 1707. In 1710, three bells were cast for the parish of Preshute, and in 1719 a bell cast for Ogborne St Andrew's church, then in 1724, a bell was cast for Marlborough St Mary's Church. In 1724, Mr. Henry Bennett gave a gift of £31 5s to recast a broken tenor bell for Newbury Parish which was cast by Robert Corr at the Aldbourne foundry. This gift today would be worth £5756! In 1741 a Priest's bell was cast by John Corr for the parish of Bedwyn Magna.

There was certainly a Bell-Founding business in operation by 1694 in the grounds of Court House in Aldbourne and around 88 bells had been made by 1724. It is suggested that the various convoluted Corr will settlements and a drop in sales forced a sale of the business. Some of the staff at the Aldbourne foundry moved to London to work in the White Chapel Foundry. The Corr/Wells Bell-Founding business lasted until 1823 when the Corrs became manufacturers of wooden buttons in London, and all evidence of the Bell-Founding business was gone in Aldbourne by 1851.

There was an article in *The Marlborough Journal* newspaper on 6 June 1722,

At the BELL-FOUNDRY at Aldbourne, Wilts, CHURCH BELLS are cast in a most elegant and as musical a manner as in any Part of the Kingdom, the Founder having made the Theory of Sounds as well as the nature of Metal as his Chief : Also hangs the same, finding all materials in a complete and concise manner; And also Hand Bells prepared and strictly in Tune and in any key. Horse-bells Clock and Room bells, the neatest of their several kinds.

A Newspaper advertisement from this same 18th century newspaper on that same day, for Robert Wells who had inherited the Corrs family business at Aldbourne, Wiltshire follows:

Likewise Mill Brasses cast and sold at the lowest Prices,

All orders will be punctually observed by ROB WELLS, Founder.

He gives Ready Money and the best Prices for Bell Metal.

There were many newspaper articles over the years regarding Bell-Foundries and Campanology and local papers such as *The Wiltshire Telegraph*, *Devizes & Wilts Advertiser* had articles and letters from readers regarding the history of church bells in Wiltshire. The Rev. William Lukis published *An Account of Church Bells* in 1857 which is currently in the purview of the



Rev. William Collings Lukis (1817-1892) (Public domain, Wikimedia Commons).

Whiting Society of Ringers and available online. Much of the information for this article was obtained from this worthy document. There are some examples of handbells and Corr logos to be seen on display in the Aldbourne Heritage Centre.

The village of Aldbourne was also famous for being the base of the US 506 Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division during WWII, this being the unit featured in the movie 'Band of Brothers'. Several episodes of the TV series Dr Who were also filmed in the village. The Heritage Centre there is well worth a visit and has been of great assistance in researching the Corrs and their family history.

References

1. Rev. William Lukis, 1857, *An Account of Church Bells*, Whiting Society of Ringers.
2. *The Marlborough Journal Newspaper*, 1722.
3. Aldbourne Community Heritage Group.

Doreen is studying the surname Corr and can be contacted at doreen.fawcett@one-name.org.



View north across the Green, Aldbourne, Wiltshire, to St Michael's parish church, 2004 (Adina Levy, commons.wikimedia.org).

Ideas for Future Articles

by David Bicket (4268) and Jean-Marc Bazzoni (450)

I am now in my ninth year as editor of the Journal and, after a very steep learning curve in how to use Adobe Indesign, my subsequent progress in producing the quarterly Journal has pretty much been ticking along nicely. The length of each Journal has been dependant on the number of articles received and thus I have published a Journal between 28-40 pages. I have previously thought about having a theme for each Journal, much like Suffolk FHS does with each quarterly edition of their Journal 'Suffolk Roots': December's theme was 'Poverty and the Workhouse' and the latest March edition is based around 'Suffolk women,' but I'm not sure this is feasible for JoONS - what do you think?

It was therefore a pleasant surprise to receive an email from David Bicket with a number of suggestions for possible articles in future Journals.

DNA Issue

- To what extent do you use Y STR results vs Y SNP results?
- What has Big Y revealed in your ONS? (e.g., unexpected connected lineages, ability to connect different lineages in historical records, identification of when a surname started, migration patterns and periods)
- Have you been able to use autosomal or mitochondrial DNA in your ONS?
- Can you provide testimonials from DNA testers who initially were unwilling to test, but later decided to test, and why?
- A summary of Guild resources and help available.

Surnames issue

- How did you research the origins of your surname?
- What were your findings about your surname, its variants and deviants, and how they changed over time? To what extent do you think these types of changes were unique to your surname, or were they likely common for many other surnames?
- Have you found cases of 'surname migration', i.e., of people changing their surnames to something perhaps sounding similar, but with a different origin? If so, can you suggest why this happened?
- What are the available public resources for research, and how credible are they? How comprehensive and representative are their early cited examples? How do you submit your own findings to them to improve publicly available information?

ONS organisation issue

- How did you get involved in your ONS? What did you collect, and how did you organize it, before you had a ONS?
- How do you now organize your ONS? What works, and what doesn't work as well as you would like?
- How many genealogy projects are you involved in? ONSs? Personal lineages? Different platforms for different projects?
- What would you do differently if you were starting again? How difficult would it be to accomplish that now?

Legacy issue

- What are the alternatives for making your work available to future generations, and how reliable/dependable are each of them? What about data on living individuals, including DNA?
- What have you (actually) done to provide for your research work to survive you?
- What have you done to ensure that your DNA work will survive and be upgradable?
- Have you done anything to make a legacy of your own life? (e.g., Storyworth.com)
- To what extent do you try to ensure that other people working on your ONS also act to preserve their own legacies?
- Given where you are now, what do you see as the best way forward for yourself for both publicising and preserving your lineages? GOONS web site? Family Search Family Tree? WikiTree? Other?

Reunion issue

- What is your experience of running, or participating in, a ONS or family tree reunion? When did you get this experience?
- To what extent do you think that reunions are no longer practical?
- What do you need to consider in planning any possible future reunions?

Time management issue

- How much time do you spend on genealogy (a) of your own lineage (b) of your ONS and (c) volunteering for the Guild and other genealogical organizations, compared to (d) the rest of your life.
- What are your life objectives as relates to genealogy, and how high are these in the pecking order of your overall life objectives?

Storage

- Do you use a computer (PC or Mac) for your research, if so, what programme(s) do you use?
- Do you use more than one programme? If so, why?
- Are you using a paper system?
- Are there pros and cons of computer vs paper filing system?

General Ideas

- Getting Started: A Beginner's Guide to Genealogical Research
- Military Ancestors: Tracing Family Members in Service
- Technology in Genealogy: Using Apps and Software for Research
- Genealogy Challenges: Overcoming Brick Walls in Your Research

Some of these ideas could initially be addressed via one of the discussion threads i.e. goons@groups.io, the WebForum and/or Facebook. You may have some ideas, if so please let me know at editor@one-name.org.

About the Guild

The Guild of One-Name Studies is the worldwide centre of excellence in one-name studies and promotes the interests of both the individuals and groups who are engaged in them.

Established in 1979 and registered as a charity in 1989, the Guild provides its members with the means to share, exchange and publish information about one-name studies as well as encouraging and assisting all those interested in one-name studies by means of conference, seminars, projects and other activities.

On 16 February 2022, the Charity Commission registered the Guild of One-Name Studies CIO. The Registered Charity Number is 1197944.

Origins and History

In the 1970s, there were a few societies specialising in a single surname study. The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS), newly formed in 1974, encouraged one-name groups to connect. At their request in 1975, the late Frank Higenbottam started a card index of one-name studies. This was taken over in 1976 by Col. Iain Swinnerton, who, after a thorough review, first published it in 1977 as the Register of One-Name Studies. By this time, over a third of the Federation's member societies were one-name groups and organisations.

The first weekend conference on one-name studies was held in Leicester in May 1978. At that conference, it was decided that a new organisation for 'one-namers' should be launched, and the Guild of One-Name Studies formally came into existence on 1 September 1979 at a meeting in Plymouth.

The new organisation was set up as a guild. The founders were keen to liken members to skilled craftsmen. They also felt that the acronym GOONS would be memorable, and would ensure that members didn't take themselves too seriously.

Since its formation the Guild has continued to publish a Register of surname interests. Annual editions of the Register are published in paper form and circulated to genealogical institutions and public libraries around the world. The Register is also available as a searchable database on this website. The main purpose of the Register is to enable individuals who specialise in researching specific surnames to have their interests on record.

How can the Guild help me?

The objectives of the Guild of One-Name Studies, as laid out in the Constitution, are:

to advance the education of the public in one-name studies, in particular but not exclusively by promoting public understanding of one-name studies, preserving and publishing the data from one-name studies and maximising accessibility of the data to interested members of the public.

The Guild of One-Name Studies was founded in the United Kingdom. However, as an organisation, it has always been keen

to extend its membership worldwide and currently has over 2,600 members in thirty countries around the world. Some of them are very experienced and knowledgeable about family history research and one-name studies; most are extremely enthusiastic and keen to help other people extend their knowledge and further their research. It is therefore very likely that one of our members may be able to help you.

As a family historian

If you have a surname in your family that is being studied by a Guild member, then s/he may well be able to provide you with valuable information and insights about the name and perhaps your own connection with it. You can find out which surnames are being studied from our online Register, where contact details are listed for over 8,400 surnames and variants being researched by members of the Guild.

As a potential Member of the Guild

Perhaps no-one is researching the surname you are interested in? Are you passionately interested in that surname? Are you committed enough to consider registering the surname yourself as a Guild registered one-name study? Perhaps you would like to see what is involved in starting a one-name study.

Not that committed at the moment?

The Guild also welcomes applications from the broader family history community, including those undertaking DNA surname projects, family historians researching a family name on a restricted basis, local historians, librarians, archivists, and those from academia, all of whom may benefit from the learning opportunities. In other words, membership is open to anyone with an interest in one-name studies. Undertaking a one-name study is not a pre-requisite for joining, nor a requirement of membership.

The Guild's Constitution excludes organisations from joining the Guild, though encourages organisations (such as one-name societies) to nominate one or more individuals to represent them. Such members have the same rights and responsibilities as any other Guild member.

For organisations or individuals who are unable to join, the Guild offers the ability to subscribe to the Journal and Register. Such subscriptions currently cost the same as membership though they do not attract any membership benefits such as an entry in the Register of One-Name Studies.

The Guild Vision

The Guild will strengthen its position as the centre of excellence for surname studies by educating the public and worldwide genealogical community in one-name studies and empowering members to preserve their knowledge and share their expertise.

Cornucopia Seminar Report

Amersham Free Church Hall, Buckinghamshire

Saturday 8 March 2025

by Mary McCarthy (8675) with assistance from AI

This was only my fourth time attending a Guild seminar, and my first as a member of the Seminar Team (formerly known as SemSub). We benefited from glorious sunshine, which unfortunately did make the room rather bright for seeing slides. Note to self: in future check how the blinds function before the event starts!

I like to take notes during talks, as it helps me to retain what I have heard. However, in the light of Donna's talk on AI in Genealogy, and in the spirit of experimentation, Andy Kerridge (9066) tried out AI tool Otter to summarize main points of some of the talks. He has used this for minute-taking with Suffolk Family History Society. Bob Cumberbatch used MS Copilot with the recording of Gwyneth's talk and asked it for the key learning points. I have used these to help me make sense of my own notes to write this review. My personal view on this is that AI summarizing is certainly a useful tool, but for me, the physical act of writing makes it more meaningful and helps me remember.

For our 'Cornucopia,' we had a rich variety of speakers and topics. Local member Gwyneth Wilkie (5238) kicked off the day by sharing her wealth of knowledge on **Name-rich Sources: Financial Records**.

Gwyneth highlighted many possible avenues of research, such as:

- The Posse Comitatus of 1798, which listed men capable of bearing arms and supplying materials during the war against France.
- Church warden accounts offering a window into parish life and local governance.
- Settlement examinations and certificates, crucial for determining which parish was responsible for supporting individuals.
- Taxation records - particularly pre-1841
- Apprenticeship stamp duty
- Burial clubs
- Insurance records, especially fire insurance
- The London Gazette reports of Insolvent Debtors

I recommend looking at Gwyneth's slides on the Guild website, as she gave lots of useful website and book suggestions. My notes from her talk are full of underlining and lightbulbs!

Donna Rutherford (7649) gave her lively first presentation on **The Future of Family History Research: Using Artificial Intelligence for Genealogy**.

Discussion focussed on the use of AI in genealogy, emphasizing its role in enhancing research efficiency. Key tools include large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT, Claude, and Google's Bard for transcribing documents, extracting key data, and summarizing information. AI can transcribe handwritten

records, identify faces in photos, and assist in document analysis, and synthesize large amounts of information.

Ethical considerations were highlighted, stressing the need for verification and proper citation of AI-generated data, privacy considerations and in-built bias. At various points in the talk, murmurs of dissent and disbelief could be heard from the audience, but also quite a few 'oohs.' This is a fast-moving area, but Donna stressed that AI is not self-aware and does not actively 'know' things.

Donna brought home the importance of effective prompting when asking AI to do something. Tell it what the context is, and what role it is playing, and exactly what you want from it. Tell them what sort of record, what language, from what year the document is, and you increase the chances of getting useful output.

Donna's second talk, **Ancestry Pro-Tools in Action: Mastering your research with the new features**.

The following summary of Donna's second talk was written by AI tool Otter.

'The meeting [sic] covered the new features of Ancestry's Pro Tools, including the tree checker, Smart Filters, charts and reports, tree mapper, tree insights, enhanced shared matches, and the new networks tool. The tree checker identifies duplicates and missing information. Smart Filters allow advanced searches by family lines, events, and places. Charts and reports offer customizable descendancy and Ahnentafel reports. The tree mapper visualizes family distributions geographically. Tree insights provide statistical overviews. Enhanced shared matches reveal connections between matches. The networks tool helps explore social groups around ancestors. Pro Tools requires a family history membership and costs £7.99/month.'

How do you find that paragraph? It is a bit 'listy,' and wouldn't win any writing awards, but it summarized fairly accurately. However, it doesn't give any hint of the excitement in Donna's voice or the buzz in the room! But Otter has other handy skills; for example, it listed these suggested 'Action Items:'

- Explore the 'Networks' feature in Ancestry Pro Tools and consider creating a network for a specific group of people, such as those on an ancestor's immigration ship. (I suggested this feature could be very useful for a One-Place Study).
- Follow up on the new announcement of the automatic clustering tool for DNA matches [not yet rolled out].
- Check for any Rootstech discount codes that may be available for Ancestry Pro Tools subscription.

Networks Tool Overview

- Networks allows users to explore people around their ancestors, including friends, associates, and neighbours.
- The tool is still in beta testing and allows users to create networks based on shared experiences, local community, chosen family, religion, school, work, sports, entertainment, and other criteria.
- Donna gave examples of potential networks, such as first ships into New Zealand and military units.
- Donna also highlighted the ability to add media and sources to networks and use sticky notes for organization.
- I'm going to explore Smart Filters, which I hadn't looked at.
- Smart Filters allow filtering information by family lines, events, places, possible errors, hints, and tree tags.
- Use the Advanced Filter option to filter by direct line ancestors, paternal or maternal lines, and people without relationships.
- Donna showed an example of using Smart Filters to find 1921 census entries for people in their paternal line living in London.
- The other promising tool is Tree Mapper, which I have long wished for in Ancestry. I hope it is more accurate than the one in Family Tree Maker.
- The tree mapper shows the distribution of people in the tree based on dates lived or born/died/married within the UK.
- Users can drill down on the map to see specific areas and filter by direct line ancestors, paternal or maternal lines, or people without relationships.

The new Pro Tools are described as game-changers. I am already using some of them: the enhanced Shared DNA Matches really has accelerated my ability to fit my matches into my genealogy - or to review and revise my genealogy! This allows you to see how much DNA your match shares with your shared matches. Note of caution: shared matches do not necessarily triangulate, so they may match along a different ancestral line than the one you share with each of them. But with the enhanced tool, you can see how closely they match each other.

Tree checker can be a bit of a blunt instrument, but that's where our skill as researchers comes in.

After lunch, Sue Swalwell (6029) entertainingly brought to life some of the women in her ONS in **Women In The Dock: Lives Revealed in the Court Records**, appropriately for an event happening on International Women's Day.

Sue made the topic of Chancery and Cause Papers surprisingly gripping, and not at all dry. She had been able to rebuild complex relationships by delving into these family feuds, and

revealed how name-rich some of the documents can be. For example, accounts of community perceptions of a husband and wife in a separation from bed and board case, and the details of familial relationships in all the stages of a chancery case, where plaintiffs and defendants are mentioned.

Sue also showed us fascinating insights into the everyday life of her Swalwell ancestor through Master's exhibits from the chancery case. We saw details of her clothes, and how many feather beds, pewter and brass pots, and iron and wood utensils she had.

These cases give us glimpses of women far beyond what can be found in parish records, and sheds light on their lives and their place in their communities. It proves that women were not invisible, and with luck and hard work, one can find and rebuild women's lives from the dusty, dirty rolls.

Rodney Brackstone (2276) rounded off the afternoon with **Manorial Records ... finding where your ancestors lived ... and maybe why they disappeared**.

Rodney described his ancestors' migration from London to the Poole area in the 1850s. He discussed the push and pull factors that influenced migration: dirt, poverty and overcrowding and better living conditions and work opportunities elsewhere. He explored the role of railways and canals in their movement and the impact of sanitation improvements on their relocation. Poole was a hub for pottery and sanitation work, the industry his ancestor worked in.

Rodney also delved into the historical significance of the Savernake Estate, owned by the Bruce family, on whose land his ancestors lived and worked, and the importance of manorial records and inquisitions post-mortem (IPMs) in genealogical research. The Bruce family, who acquired the Savernake Estate, had significant influence and holdings in various parts of England, which means sources relevant to your ancestors may be in records of a completely different part of the country. It also suggests that ancestors with certain skills might have been asked to move to another holding of the landowner.

Many thanks to all involved in organising and running this seminar!

Recordings and slides of all these talks are now available on the Guild website: <https://one-name.org/cornucopia-seminar-amersham/>.

The next seminar is on the topic of Education, on Saturday 14 June at Bearley Village Hall, Bearley, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0SR.



Genealogy Crossword

Test your grey matter with our family history crossword

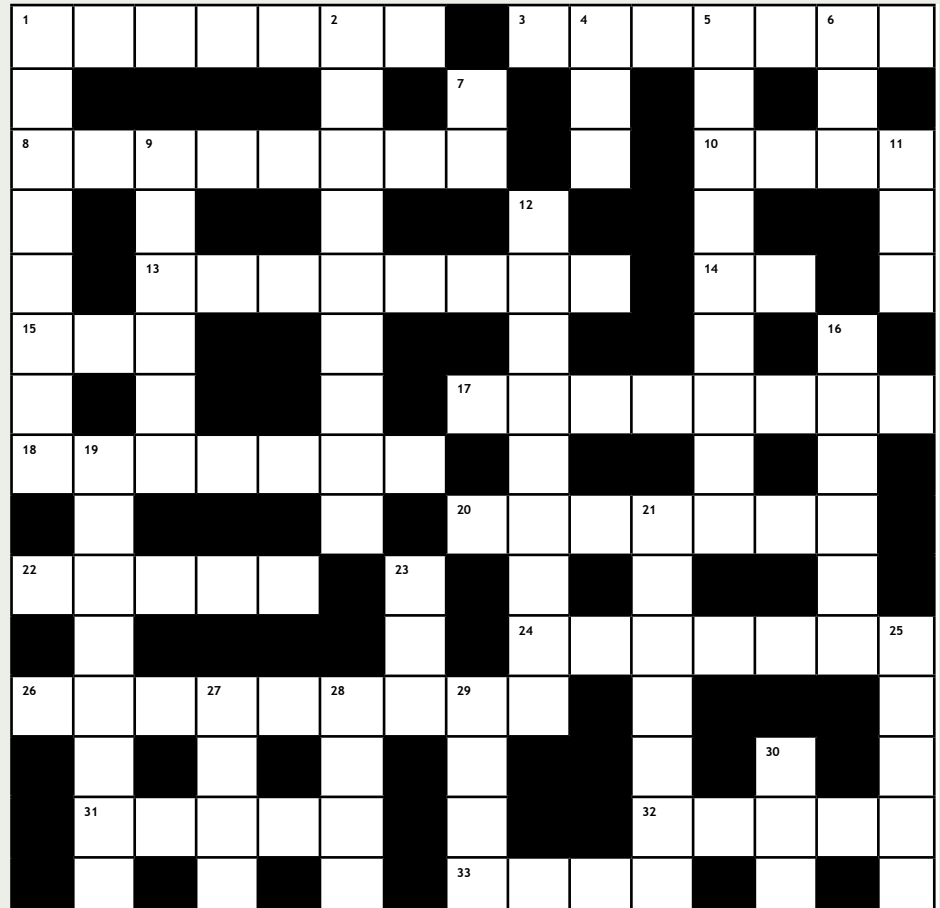
by Steve Archer MCG (2843)

Across

- 1 To move from one country or state or region to another (7)
- 3 Published since 1665, the London ... is the official UK newspaper of record (7)
- 8 An official list e.g. of births, marriages, deaths, voters (8)
- 10 Body established in 1917 to administer British military cemeteries worldwide (initials) (4)
- 13 Dead (8)
- 14 Latin for 'died' (abbrev.) (2)
- 15 Vast overseas trading company founded in 1600 (initials) (3)
- 17 Relating to marriage or the relationship between husband and wife (8)
- 18 Piece of embroidery worked as a specimen of proficiency (7)
- 20 ... Palace is the London headquarters of the Archbishop of Canterbury (7)
- 22 Offspring, children (5)
- 24 A title originally implying a social rank above that of gentleman, later a courtesy title (7)
- 26 Publisher of a reference book of Anglican clergy (9)
- 31 An enclosed plot of land, often adjacent to a dwelling (5)
- 32 Heraldic black (5)
- 33 The period of forty days before Easter (4)

Down

- 1 English peerage title below the rank of duke (8)
- 2 Legal document drawn up to transfer property and/or rights from one person to another (5,4)
- 4 Abbreviated version of Latin 'of age ...', often found in burial registers (3)
- 5 The process that brought open field farming to an end, mainly by Act of Parliament in the 17th-19th centuries (9)
- 6 A popular genealogy programme (initials) (3)
- 7 Heraldic gold or yellow (2)
- 9 Computer file format designed for transmitting genealogical data (6)
- 11 Abbreviation often found in lists of parish register holdings to indicate all three types of event (3)
- 12 English architectural style typical of the 14th century (9)
- 16 The relationship of Prince Albert to Edward VII (6)
- 19 An ... of title summarises a series of title deeds (8)
- 21 A legacy, usually a gift of real estate by will (7)
- 23 Located at the Family Records Centre in London until 2007 (initials) (3)
- 25 Anaesthetic introduced c1846 (5)
- 27 James ..., great 18th century English explorer and navigator (4)
- 28 Surname element derived from the French 'son of' (4)
- 29 Legal term for property such as land or houses (4)
- 30 CD-Rom product compiled by the Federation of Family History Societies from parish registers (initials) (3)



Answers to Volume 15, Issue 5

Across: 1 Presentment, 9 Pottage, 10 Tombstone, 11 Man, 12 Olympica, 14 Reading, 15 Jno, 17 Highways, 19 Nee, 21 Lineal, 23 Bequeath, 26 Swing, 27 Incumbent, 28 Son, 29 Peel. **Down:** 1 Poitiers, 2 Enumeration, 3 MI, 4 Tate, 5 Chapman, 6 Fiennes, 7 Asquith, 8 Monogram, 9 Pepys, 13 Pankhurst, 16 Sentence, 18 Smedley, 20 Lloyds, 22 Alice, 24 Tomb, 25 Gin.

Instructions for Contributors

We welcome articles, photographs, letters, and news from members.

Please send your submissions to the editor at:

editor@one-name.org

The deadline for the following editions are:

15 February, 15 May, 15 August, and 1 November

Please note that the Editor reserves the right to amend an article due to various reasons/restrictions and cannot guarantee which edition submissions will appear as this is due to space limitations along with ensuring diversity of content.

Answers in
next Journal

Forthcoming Seminars

18 October 2025

DNA Seminar

Venue: East Midlands TBC

It is three years since our last DNA seminar, and with numerous developments to catch up on, our team of experts speakers (including Debbie Kennett, Donna Rutherford and John Cleary) will help members at varying points in their DNA research journey make the best of DNA technology. As at previous DNA seminars there will be general presentations, as well as breakout sessions catering for various levels of knowledge.

The new Seminar Team are currently planning for seminars in 2026 and beyond.

Outline details of all Guild events can be found on the calendar on the Guild website <https://one-name.org/events/>.

Full details of the next Guild seminar can be found at <https://one-name.org/seminar-events/>.

In addition the Guild arrange one-off webinars and details can be found at <https://one-name.org/guild-webinar-series/>.

Education Seminar

Bearley Village Hall

Snitterfield Road, Bearley

Stratford-Upon-Avon CV37 0SR

9.30am for 10.00am, Saturday 14 June 2025

The best days of your life? Who went to school, what did they learn and who taught them? What can we learn from school registers? How can we find out about ancestors who went into teaching? There are so many 'name rich' records, make the best use of them to enrich your family history.

Programme

Seminar presentations include:

- **Margaret Roberts** - genealogist: Teacher training and how to find the teachers in your family
- **Claire Moores** - genealogist: The three R's - School and Education Records for Family History research
- **Valerie Brenton** - genealogist: Tracking two teachers in my family
- **Taresh Solanki** - schoolmaster, Shakespeare's schoolroom: Shooling the Tudors
- A selection of brief case studies

Cost including refreshments and buffet lunch £25.00

Booking will open late March.

Want to get started with your DNA research?

Visit the webpage 'Want a DNA Project?' at the Guild website, in the DNA section to learn about your options and how to proceed. You must be logged in to see this page.

<http://one-name.org/want-a-DNA-project/>

Want to Learn More about DNA for family history research?

Visit the DNA resource section at the Guild website. You must be logged in to see all the pages. A limited selection of pages are available to the public.

<http://one-name.org/DNA-introduction/>

Want to save money on DNA test kits?

You or your participants can save money by buying test kits through the Guild.

<http://one-name.org/DNA-kits-available-from-the-guild/>

How do I register a One-Name Study?

A one-name study may be registered either when joining the Guild or subsequently as a Guild member by visiting the Guild Shop. A once-only registration fee is payable for each study registered, although the fee includes the registration of a reasonable number of variants.

The Guild recognises that a one-name study can represent a considerable amount of work to research and maintain. Before registering a study name, members are recommended to have at least established an understanding of the expected size and extent of the study, and the likely geographical areas to which research should be directed.

Each study listed in the Register of One-Name Studies is classified into one of three categories, 1, 2 or 3. The category designations are intended to give a rough idea of the progress and maturity of the study. The study principles may be helpful here.

The designations of the categories used at present is as follows:

1. Category 1: A study where research using core genealogical datasets and transcriptions is in its early stages.
2. Category 2: A study where research using core genealogical datasets and transcriptions is well under way, but currently in some countries only.
3. Category 3: A study where research using core genealogical datasets and transcriptions is well under way on a global basis.

After their study has been registered, members may update their categorisation as they wish.

Guild members are allowed to register any number of separate one-name studies, though it is recommended that only one name is registered by new members. A reasonable number of variant surnames can also be registered within each study. Registered variants may be names held by living name bearers or where all lines are now extinct, and should be registered only if the member is studying them as fully as the principal registered

name. Your view of which spellings are genuine variants of your registered study name may change as your study develops, and you can add or drop variants within your study at any point. It is good practice to register only the most frequently-found variants, and almost all one-name studies are, in practice, researching or monitoring more variants than those formally associated with the registration of the surname.

Any given surname may be registered as a study or variant by only one member, on a "first come, first served" basis. While many members like to register and research their own surname, or a name from within their family, we do have members who are researching an unrelated name. This may be because their first choice of a name was already registered by another member, the name has a special connection or memory to them, or they are simply intrigued by historical facts related to the name. The current list of registered studies and variants can be found at: https://guild-dev.org/surnames_a-z/.

Members are now also able to specify if their currently-registered study is available for adoption, and this offers an opportunity to take advantage of an interactive handover. Studies looking for a new home can be viewed at: <https://guild-dev.org/available-studies/>.

The Registrar has the responsibility of assessing one-name study registration requests, according to agreed criteria for registrations. Members registering a name with the Guild should be aware of the study principles of one-name studies registered with the Guild.

The registration of any one-name study surname and variants will lapse when membership ceases. Any individual re-joining the Guild and wishing to re-register any surnames and variants (if they are still available for registration) will be required to pay the appropriate Registration Fee, although the Committee, or the Registrar acting on its behalf, may waive the fee if this is deemed appropriate.



Journal of One-Name Studies
Quarterly publication of the
Guild of One-Name Studies
ISSN 0262-4842
£3.00 when sold to non-members



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of One-Name Studies